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Jordan Times

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London contacts Ankara over Nadi's escape

LONDON (AFP) — The British government said Wednesday it had contacted Ankara to try to arrange the return to Britain of disgraced businessman Asil Nadi, who fled Britain Tuesday to Turkish-controlled northern Cyprus. According to a Foreign Office spokesman, London contacted Ankara at the same time as British Ambassador to Cyprus David Dain met Turkish Cypriot leader Raouf Denktash. According to Turkish Cypriot radio, Mr. Denktash said after the meeting with Mr. Dain Wednesday that it was "out of the question" to return Mr. Nadi to Britain. Mr. Nadi, 52, a Turkish Cypriot and former head of the bankrupted British conglomerate Pelly Peck, arrived in northern Cyprus Tuesday evening aboard a private plane which had taken off from a small airfield near London. The Foreign Office said enquiries were still continuing through the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), part of the Home Office, which is conducting an investigation into Mr. Nadi's activities at the collapsed company. In a statement, the office said it was considering issuing a warrant for Mr. Nadi's arrest. The SFO said that Mr. Nadi, who has dual British-Turkish nationality, had both his passports confiscated as a condition of his release on bail in 1990.

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Assad meets Kinkel

DAMASCUS (AP) — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Wednesday the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks should be based on Palestinian right to self-determination and Israel's right to secure existence. At a news conference after 2½ hours meeting with President Hafez Al Assad, Mr. Kinkel said his impression was that Syria wanted peace. "I asked Assad frankly as to whether I can tell journalists that Syria wants peace. The Syrian president continued by saying: 'Syria does not want peace alone but it pins great hopes on peace.' Syria's official news agency (SANA) quoted Assad as saying that Syria had always and was still working for a just and comprehensive peace. "For this purpose," Mr. Assad continued, "Syria has agreed to the setting out of the peace process and opened the door for it and cooperated with its partners."

WHO chief reelected

GENEVA (R) — Japan's Hiroshi Nakajima was reelected for a fifth year as head of the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Wednesday, foiling an attempt by Western nations to oust him. Diplomats said they said members voted 93 to 58 to confirm Mr. Nakajima's nomination by the U.N. agency's executive board. "He has been reelected," one delegate said.

Sudan defends its human rights record

KHARTOUM (AP) — The government refuted charges of human rights violations Wednesday and told a parliamentary German delegation that it protects the rights of all Sudanese. The German delegation, led by Friedrich Vogel, chairman of the human rights and humanitarian affairs committee in the German parliament, met with senior Sudanese officials to discuss the issue of human rights. Bishop Gabriel Roric, minister of state of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, told the delegation that Sudan protects human rights and guarantees freedom of religious belief. Major General Dominique Massano, a member of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, and other officials, expressed similar sentiments.

Algiers airport bomb trial opens

ALGIERS (AFP) — The trial opened Wednesday of 55 people accused of involvement in a bomb attack which killed last month and left 123 injured last August at Algiers airport, court officials said. The government blamed the attack on Islamic fundamentalists. The defendants, except for 25 who are still being sought, appeared before a special court set up in Algiers to handle cases of subversion and terrorism. Most of the defendants face the death penalty if convicted.

Beirut may reinstate case against bombers

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese authorities under pressure from Washington have called for reinstating the case against the alleged bombers of the U.S. embassy in Beirut, political and judicial sources said Wednesday. A government representative, Nasser Lahoud, Tuesday appealed a court ruling last month that dropped proceedings against 15 suspects in the April 18, 1983 bombing which killed 63 people, judicial sources said. Washington was angry when the case was dropped and said the move might harm efforts to restore full Lebanese-U.S. ties, according to Lebanese political sources.

Hariri winds up Gulf tour

DOHA (AP) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri Wednesday wound up a visit to Qatar, where it was agreed to form a joint committee that would concentrate on restructuring housing and infrastructure devastated in Lebanon's 15 years of civil war. Qatar also announced that it was sending an ambassador to Beirut to affirm the return of normalcy to Lebanon. Bahrain and Oman, which Mr. Hariri earlier visited, also agreed to reopen their embassies in Beirut. Mr. Hariri visited the United Arab Emirates on his way.

Sharif Zeid's government staying on — for now

Reshuffle or change put on hold after King's decision against immediate move

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A change of government that was widely expected to take place any time this week has been put off for at least another few weeks after His Majesty King Hussein asked the cabinet of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to remain in office for an unspecified period, a senior government official told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

The official, who asked not to be named, said that King Hussein Tuesday asked Sharif Zeid to stay on as prime minister and Sharif Zeid conveyed the King's will to his ministers in a cabinet meeting Tuesday evening, urging them to continue with their work and revitalise it wherever possible.

"Everything has been put on hold," another senior official said.

The resignation of Sharif

Zeid's cabinet was expected in order to allow for the formation of a transitional government to oversee elections for the 12th Parliament, which are to be held later this year.

The Constitution, however, stipulates that a caretaker government should be formed within 45 days before parliamentary elections are held. No date for the elections has been announced yet but King Hussein last week said they will take place "around November."

Even though the King never committed himself to the change of cabinet, cabinet members and other officials expected it to take place due to mostly local pressures pushing for it.

These included Sharif Zeid's reported willingness not to remain as head of government as well as pressure from the 10 members of the cabinet who are deputies and wanted time to campaign for their reelections. Other



members of the Lower House who are not members of cabinet also wanted to see the government changed so that their colleagues would not have the advantage of incumbents as the date for elections nears.

While the peace process and regional relations are issues which the present government



will have to deal with, the most pressing matters awaiting a decision are a draft law imposing a new sales tax and the elections.

If this government remains in office till the end of May, it would most probably have to implement the proposed sales tax to secure International Monetary Fund (IMF) certification that it is adhering to the economic readjustment programme.

Jordan needs the certification to succeed in rescheduling foreign debts due for repayment between mid-1993 and 1995.

But while the government has been non-committal on whether a change in the elections law is in the making, cabinet members confirmed that this government will not take any action on any issues pertaining to the elections.

A senior government official said the presence of deputies in the government will create a conflict of interest should this government address the elections law.

"There is a large interest group in this government," he said.

In an interview with Renter last week, King Hussein said a change in the election law was still under consideration.

Informed sources, however, said any decision on changing the elections law will have to be taken with the consensus of all parties concerned. "Changing the elections law will not be a government decision," he said.

The mechanism for endorsing a change in the elections law, if such a change is to be made, is expected to be taken through a mechanism similar to the one

through which the National Charter was approved in 1991. The King would form a committee representing all political trends and would entrust with the process.

But while officials confirmed the delay in the change of government, no one would speculate on who would form the one to succeed it.

"The choice of the prime minister is the prerogative of the King," said one senior official. "I don't think the King has yet made a decision on who will head the next government," said another.

In the uncertainty of who will be the King's choice for a prime minister, speculations about potential heads of government have centred on Chief of the Royal Court Khalid Al Karaki, Deputy Prime Minister Thounan Al Hindawi, chief Jordanian delegate to the peace talks Abdul Salam Al Majali and Upper House of Parliament member Marwan Al Qasem.

A political analyst who requested anonymity said the choice of the next prime minister will be mainly tied to the decision on whether to change the elections law.

If a change in the elections law is forthcoming, it will be opposed by a majority of deputies and political parties who have publicly said that no amendment to the law should be made unless it is endorsed by the Lower House.

Accordingly, said the analyst, a strong prime minister would be needed and Mr. Majali would be the most likely candidate due to his "strong credentials and power base."

He said that neither Dr. Karaki, Mr. Hindawi nor Mr. Qasem would be likely to lead the government through the elections if the law is changed.

Sharif Zeid would be the most unlikely to form the transitional government in the event that the government unilaterally decided to change the law because of the impact that would have on his relations with Parliament and other political forces in the country, said the analyst.

"But all that is mere speculation. That is a government source."

"Nobody knows what the next step would be except the King," said Mustafa Hamameh, who heads the Jordan Strategic Studies Centre of the University of Jordan.

Peace talks extended amid hopes of tangible progress

From Nureen Murad
in Washington

ARAB DELEGATIONS to the Middle East peace negotiations have agreed to extend their stay here for another week during which they are expected to have a joint meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton and move ahead in negotiations with Israel.

The decision, taken late Tuesday night, came at the heels of reported progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track identified by sources only as an "arrangement of the items of the draft Jordanian-Israeli agenda into working groups."

Very little information was being made available on the nature of these working groups or their names as delegation mem-

bers here awaited an approval from the Jordanian government of the preliminary development.

The tight lid placed on these groups, sources insist, are to maintain the integrity of the Palestinian track and not to announce any movement on the Jordanian side in absence of a marked improvement in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Sources who insisted on anonymity described the working groups as "a logical breakdown of the items on the draft agenda into operative and practical working teams."

This measure, however, was not seen as one that would replace the agenda as the reference for the talks on the Jordanian-Israeli track but a measure "that takes its reference from the agenda."

The agenda would continue to serve its purpose as a reference list for plenary meetings of the Jordanian-Israeli track and the goals of the negotiations.

While the two tracks — the Israeli-Jordanian and earlier last week the Israeli-Palestinian — break down into groupings of working teams, the Jordanian and Palestinian negotiating teams are preparing to discuss creating their own joint coordination teams to deal with issues of dual value on both tracks.

The subjects of the meetings of the proposed teams and the mechanism of the coordination will be decided in a meeting between the two sides to be scheduled sometime this weekend. (Continued on page 2)

Rabin to hold plebiscite or polls on returning land

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has pledged to hold a referendum or general election before Israel returns any occupied territory to the Arabs, officials said Wednesday.

The commitment has made in a written agreement which enabled Mr. Rabin to bring the orthodox religious party Shas with six seats in parliament into his government coalition last July.

"Any peace treaty involving territorial concessions must be before it is signed receive popular approval either through a referendum or general election," the document states. Elections are not due until 1996.

Officials at the prime minister's office explained that the commitment concerned only a peace treaty and not a framework accord for peace with Arab countries.

Mr. Rabin repeated his commitment to hold a referendum or election to Shas party leader Aryeh Deri, who serves as interior minister, during a cabinet meeting Wednesday.

During the cabinet meeting, hawks accused doves of undermining Israel's negotiating position by offering too much to the Arabs.

During the session, Mr. Rabin reprimanded ministers who have publicly advocated complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights to reach peace with Syria or a greater role for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in negotiations with Palestinians.

Mr. Rabin did not commit himself on the referendum Wednesday, the AP said, but he will eventually have to address the Shas demand because he needs

the party in the coalition to maintain broad-based support.

Mr. Deri said that for the time being, Shas would not bolt the government over the peace talks, but he was sharply critical of his dovish colleagues.

"I came to the cabinet sessions in an angry mood today because of all these remarks by ministers in the last week," Mr. Deri told reporters. "This causes very serious damage to the negotiations, this hardens the positions of the Arabs, this creates an atmosphere of a going-out-of-business sale."

Economics Minister Shimon Shetret of Mr. Rabin's Labour Party also said Israel should never leave all the Golan for "security" reasons and said any discussion of total withdrawal was dangerous.

But dovish cabinet colleagues were unimpressed by criticism.

Tourism Minister Uzi Baram of Labour said Wednesday he backed full withdrawal from the Golan if the Syrians are ready for a real peace.

Immigrant Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban of the left-wing Meretz bloc said the PLO should eventually be given a greater role in the negotiations as a reward for supporting the talks and bringing the Palestinian delegation back after a four-month break.

Mr. Rabin rejects direct PLO involvement in the negotiations, saying it would push the Palestinians towards more demands.

But Mr. Tzaban said he expected changes in the government position on the PLO, adding that "a number of ministers said the government should reexamine its position on this issue." (Continued on page 2)

Israelis shoot 10 Palestinians in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers Wednesday shot and wounded 10 Palestinians during intermittent clashes in the occupied Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said.

The clashes occurred in the Khan Yunes and Jabalia refugee camps.

On Tuesday, three Palestinians were shot dead in the Gaza Strip and 45 others wounded including a child later pronounced clinically dead.

The latest deaths brought to 1,067 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli bullets since the start of the uprising in December 1987, according to an AFP toll.

Shops remained closed Wednesday for the second day running in the strip to protest Monday's killing of four Palestinians by Israeli border guards.

The Israeli army beefed up its presence in the Gaza Strip which has been sealed off since March 29, the sources said.

Elsewhere, Israeli army explosives experts detonated a powerful bomb on a road used by a patrol in the village of Taqumiyah in the southern West Bank, military sources said, adding that it caused no damage.

Military sources said two Israelis, aged 19 and 17, were shot and slightly wounded overnight Tuesday by border guards when they tried to flee after driving up to a roadblock in the village of Attil in the northern West Bank.

Jordanians lose heavily in Baghdad's withdrawal of 25-dinar 'Swiss' notes

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians may have lost as much as \$100 million in hoarded Iraqi currency following the decision Wednesday of the Baghdad government to withdraw pre-1990 Iraqi banknotes of 25-dinar denomination and close the borders for five days to check smuggling, dealers and banking officials said.

However, the most affected by the abrupt cancellation of the banknotes are speculators in the Gulf states, particularly Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) who were believed to have purchased billions of Iraqi dinars in old notes, particularly in 25-dinar bills.

Trading in Iraqi dinars in the Gulf states slowed down after Kuwait imposed a ban against dealing in the currency late last

Entry of Iraqi currency banned

CENTRAL BANK OF JORDAN (CBJ) Governor Mohammed Saeed Al Nakhal issued instructions to Jordanian airports and border crossing points ordering them to ban the entry of Iraqi banknotes regardless of denomination with the aim of assessing the volume of Iraqi banknotes out of circulation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The agency was also informed that the government will exert every possible effort with the concerned Iraqi authorities to avoid harassing the interest of Jordanians owning Iraqi currency.

year, but the volume of dinars in the Gulf remained huge with speculators poised to move in for the kill as and when the international sanctions against Iraq were lifted or even relaxed a bit.

To a large extent, the speculators appeared to have been encouraged by their governments, which obviously hoped to hasten the economic collapse of Iraq by forcing Baghdad to print new banknotes

without any monetary base to meet its people's demands.

Jordanians, whose share in the hoarding business was relatively low, Wednesday thronged money-changers in a frantic bid to get rid of the banknotes, but there were few takers. Several exchanges pulled down their shutters against the tide of customers clutching huge bags of the Iraqi currency while others totally refused to accept the embattled dinar.

The Iraqi decision to cancel the 25-dinar notes, varying known as "Swiss" and European, which were in circulation prior to the Gulf crisis sparked by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, was announced in Iraqi papers.

"The 25-dinar note shall be withdrawn from circulation and those in possession of such banknotes have the right to change them for the legally equivalent national currency within a week of the issuance of this decree," said a statement issued by the Revolutionary Command Council and carried by Baghdad papers.

The statement said the closure of the border, which went into effect early morning Wednesday, was to remain in force until Monday midnight. "Arab and non-Arab official delegations with formal business in Iraq as well as Iraqi" (Continued on page 2)

Arafat, Brotherhood lock horns over peace process

By Marianne M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A heated debate has erupted between Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood movement and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat over Arab participation in Arab-Israeli peace talks.

A letter the Brotherhood sent to the Palestinian leadership urging him to order a Palestinian withdrawal from the on-going peace process was described by the PLO chairman as interference in Palestinian affairs.

"I appreciate your concern to

inform us about your opinion... but we express our regrets over the contents of your message which we consider an intervention in national Palestinian affairs," said Mr. Arafat in a reply, according to Reuters.

The Brotherhood's parliamentary spokesman, Ibrahim Khreisat, said that the Brotherhood had sent letters to heads of all Arab governments which are participating in round nine of the Arab-Israeli peace talks urging them to withdraw their respective delegations from the talks.

(Continued on page 2)

U.S., Europe pledge \$20m for West Bank and Gaza

ROME (R) — Multilateral talks on Middle East economic issues ended Wednesday with the United States and Europe pledging nearly \$20 million in emergency aid for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The World Bank told the opening session Tuesday that it estimated the reconstruction of the territories Israel has occupied since 1967 roughly at \$1 billion.

"We had a very successful two days," said Denmark's Alf Jonsen, who chaired the meeting on behalf of the European Community (EC). Denmark currently holds the rotating EC presidency.

"All regional parties are going back with something for their constituents," Mr. Jonsen told a news conference. "The occupied territories have a whole bag full of money."

Forty-four delegations, including ones representing Israel, the Palestinians and major Arab states, attended the talks.

On Wednesday, the EC promised \$2 million and Spain pledged \$400,000 to create jobs in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. They joined the United States and Italy which on

(Continued on page 2)

Russia to send force; Serbs debate peace plan

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia told the United States on Wednesday it would send peacekeeping troops to Bosnia if rebel Serbs accepted a U.N. peace plan and implied it would back the use of force if they refused.

The two countries issued a joint statement after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

They said they were prepared to commit "appropriate military forces of their own to assist in peacekeeping endeavours" if the Bosnian Serbs' self-styled parliament approved the U.N. plan

dividing the former Yugoslav republic into 10 ethnically based cantons.

"If it is not accepted and implemented, Russia and the United States will immediately resume discussion of new, tougher measures. No measures are prejudged or excluded from consideration," the statement said.

At a joint news conference after the talks, Mr. Kozyrev spelt out in more detail than before Russia's willingness to send troops to implement the plan devised by mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance.

He said they would play a special role guarding a land corridor linking Bosnian Serb territory

and Serbia itself.

"I am glad to be able to reiterate the commitment of Russia to provide necessary troops and monitors to be sure the corridor is safeguarded," Mr. Kozyrev said.

In a statement, Mr. Yeltsin said Russia would give "strong support to those who honestly take the path of peace on the basis of the Vance-Owen plan."

But he added that Russia would not "indulge anyone who left it." He said Moscow expected the Bosnian Serb parliament to show "a sense of responsibility" and approve the plan.

Mr. Christopher is touring European capitals to enlist the support of allies for military mea-

sures against the Serbs if they reject the peace plan at a crucial session Wednesday.

Mr. Christopher later flew on to Brussels for talks with allies. In Sarajevo, Bosnia's Muslim president warned Serb foes to prove good faith with concrete actions before he negotiated to end a 13-month civil war.

Alija Izetbegovic said he had conveyed this stance to Canadian External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall at talks soon after she arrived in the besieged capital of Sarajevo.

"I told her we will not enter any further political negotiations" (Continued on page 5)

U.S. freezes \$2.1b of 5 countries said aiding 'terrorists'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government has frozen \$2.1 billion in assets in the United States belonging to five countries accused of sponsoring international terrorism, according to a Treasury Department report.

It is the first time the treasury has detailed the assets of foreign governments blocked over the years in U.S. accounts. The listing is part of a congressional effort to do more than just embarrass terrorists with a court judgement. We must be able to go after their money," said Senator Charles Grassley, who sponsored the amendment requiring the report.

The treasury breakdown of the known holdings in the United States of the five countries:

- Cuba, \$11.1 billion.
- Iran, \$2.2 billion, primarily real estate, blocked since the hostage crisis at the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979-81.
- Iraq, \$1.1 billion.
- Libya, \$903 million.
- North Korea, \$2.8 million.
- The Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control administers economic sanctions against the five — which are designated by the Secretary of State as state sponsors of "terrorism."

Syria also bears the state "terrorism" designation, but its \$249 million in assets here are not blocked.

While Syria continues to provide support and safe haven to "terrorist" groups, there is no evidence Syrian officials have been directly involved in planning or executing "terrorist" attacks outside Lebanon since 1986, the State Department said in a report last week.

Mr. Grassley said he was disappointed that the treasury report "ignored the issue of assets held by terrorist organizations" in the United States.

Treasury said it is examining an updated list of 39 international "terrorist" groups issued last week by the State Department to determine whether there's "a basis for further action."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) says in a report on "terrorism" that "members of certain international terrorist groups have infrastructures in the United States, and some provide financial support to their counterparts overseas."

"This financial support has been developed by various methods such as fund-raising, money laundering via front com-

panies, and counterfeiting," the FBI report adds.

The State Department report issued last week declared that Iran was the most dangerous state sponsor of "terrorism" in 1992 — with over 20 acts attributable to the government or its surrogates.

Iraqi intelligence has resumed sending agents abroad to track opponents of Saddam Hussein, said the State Department. Libya orchestrated mob attacks on the Venezuelan and Russian embassies in Tripoli in April, it said.

Cuba, meanwhile, has sharply reduced financial assistance to the few Marxist insurgencies remaining in Latin America, while North Korea has issued an ambiguous condemnation of international "terrorism," the State Department said. But North Korea continues to harbour hijackers of a Japanese airliner and Cuba hosts Third World leftist militants for study and political training, the department added.

S. Arabia denies report

Saudi Arabia's Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz has denied Iranian reports that he discussed Western charges of "terrorism" against the Islamic

republic when he met Iran's ambassador to the kingdom.

The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) Tuesday night quoted Prince Sultan as saying that he "did not have any discussion about terrorism with the ambassador."

The Iranian news agency IRNA Monday quoted Prince Sultan as telling Iran's Ambassador in Riyadh Mohammad Ali Hadi Najafabadi that his country believed in the fact that Iran did not pose any threat to either the region or Saudi Arabia.

IRNA said Prince Sultan, a brother of King Fahd and third in line to the Saudi throne, also described charges of Iranian involvement in "terrorism" as "unfounded fabrications and a propaganda ploy."

Prince Sultan told SPA that he discussed with the ambassador preparations for this year's pilgrimage to Mecca, which takes place later this month.

Iran has said it is sending more than 110,000 pilgrims this year and both countries are keen to keep politics out of the Haj and avoid a possible repetition of 1988 riots in Mecca in which more than 400 pilgrims, mostly Iranians, were killed.

Peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

The teams will deal with Jordan-related items on the Palestinian agenda and vice-versa.

The two delegations will also decide whether the coordination meetings will be continuous meetings in Amman and Washington or ones which will be limited to parallel meetings to negotiations in Washington.

Among the issues to be discussed will be banking systems, currency, education and awqaf. Much of the discussion in these teams will be contingent on the agreements between Palestinians and Israelis on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

According to Arab sources, early empowerment with a transfer of authority and legislation to Palestinians is different from the early empowerment and the power to issue legislation by an elected body of Palestinian representatives in the occupied territories. According to the sources, the changes on the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations track is that this difference is now open for negotiations and there is a larger possibility of Palestinians gaining the right to take control of primary legislation which is in line with the terms of the Palestinian interim self government arrangement (PISGA).

"The Israelis will be careful not to allow the Palestinians control over legislation which gives the impression of a separate state for Palestinians," one source indicated.

On Tuesday, the Palestinians met for a short plenary meeting with the Israelis after which they broke up into their three working groups of concept, water and land, and human rights.

According to a press release from the Palestinians, the water and land group meeting dealt mainly with establishing United Nations Resolution 242 as a reference point for these talks. The Palestinians also raised the issue of jurisdiction over land and called on Israel to accept dealing with Palestinian territory as one geographic unit, a step which Palestinians believe would lead to more active engagement in negotiations.

In the "concept" group meeting, Palestinians tried to establish the political framework for negotiations — i.e. a declaration of principles to provide the guidelines for such a frame. The Palestinians also stressed the need to carry immediate and free elections in the territories under international supervision.

The human rights group meeting dealt mainly with expulsions, prisoners and detainees, family reunification and indiscriminate taxes.

Agencies add: Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said on CNN television late Tuesday: "For the first time there is a real seriousness in terms of approaching the issues without preconditions, in terms of not trying to exclude subjects that are of a difficult nature."

"At the same time I think the whole atmosphere in terms of Israeli practices on the ground has improved because of the beginning of the reversal of the issue of deportation. In addition to a working plan that is perhaps more substantive and pragmatic."

Palestinian delegates deplored killings of Palestinians by Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip, but did not turn the issue into a crisis.

"All this has, of course, a negative effect on the negotiations," chief Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi said Tuesday. "It reduces the credibility of the negotiations."

Colette Avital, Israel's consul general in New York, also sounded positive about the Israeli-Palestinian talks.

"We feel also that after many months of pre-negotiations, we finally got into the stage where the issues are being discussed, where you do not touch any more upon ideology, but where there is a new sense of pragmatism," she told CNN.

The United States wants the peace talks to run as nearly continuously, or eliminate the concept of rounds, because if you call them rounds it requires everyone to make decisions to come or not," a senior administration official said.

He said experience of other negotiations suggested that a rhythm of three weeks of talks followed by one week for delegations to consult their political leaders had proved productive.

Israeli sources also said a tenth round of talks was scheduled to open June 6 in Washington, lasting three weeks.

Israel-Syrian discussions have remained deadlocked over the question of the Golan Heights. The head of Syria's delegation, Mouaffak Allaf, said late Tuesday that Arab delegates felt that despite the seriousness of the talks, "the results up to now are falling well short of what was hoped and the promises that were made."

Palestine delegation head Faisal Hussein said Wednesday he expected progress next week in the peace talks.

He told the BBC that there had been "serious meetings, some serious discussions" since the third round of talks began.

Mr. Hussein said if the current headway continued "next week will be a week of progress."

However, if the question of East Jerusalem is not solved, "it can cause a real problem for the whole peace process."

U.S., Europe pledge \$20m for Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

Tuesday, pledged \$14 million and \$3 million respectively.

The aid promises were in response to the Palestinian delegation's request for an emergency fund to ease hardship in the occupied territories, whose borders were closed by Israel more than a month ago.

The EC additionally pledged \$6 million to pay for studies and other technical support for the economic talks.

The Rome talks considered proposals for development projects in transportation, tourism, agriculture, finance and trade.

Both Israel and the Palestinians said they were satisfied with progress made at the third round of talks of the working group on economic development. It met previously last October in Paris and a year ago in Brussels.

"We think this meeting is a step in the right direction," said Palestinian delegate Mohammad Shrayfeh, who added there was "increased recognition" that the economic problems of the occupied territories were a high priority.

"The general summary from our point of view is positive," said David Kimche, co-chair of the Israeli delegation.

The economic talks are part of the larger Middle East peace process that includes the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks in progress in Washington.

There are four other multilateral working groups on arms control, environment, water resources and refugees. Lebanon and Syria did not attend the Rome talks. They have called for more progress in the bilateral talks before joining the multilateral negotiations.

The World Bank is to present at the next meeting its final report on a study of economic needs in the Middle East, with a special focus on the occupied territories.

In a preliminary report on Tuesday, the World Bank said there was "substantial need" — as much as \$1 billion — to repair roads, hospitals, sewer systems and other infrastructure in the occupied territories.

Rabin

(Continued from page 1)

Tourism Minister Uzi Baran said the PLO was playing a "positive role" in the peace talks.

Israel would in the end have to negotiate with the PLO, Mr. Baran told the cabinet meeting.

Mr. Baran also supported a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for total peace with Damascus.

"I would be very pleased if Israel reached the same agreement with Syria as with Egypt, even at the cost of total withdrawal from the Golan," Mr. Baran told Voice of Israel radio after the cabinet meeting.

Arafat, Brotherhood lock horns

(Continued from page 1)

"Chairman Arafat appears to think that the issue of Palestine concerns the PLO alone while in reality it is an Arab and Islamic concern," Mr. Khreissat told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

Amman and Tunis-based PLO officials appeared unaware of the written communications between the Brotherhood and Chairman Arafat. "I will ask him if he has been in touch with the Brotherhood here," said Palestinian official Abbas Zaki. The PLO information office in Tunis also was unaware of the exchange of messages.

"We are not aware of a dialogue between the two sides," said the director of the PLO information office in Tunis, Jamil Hlail.

The Brotherhood said Wednesday that it would publicise the contents of Mr. Arafat's letter once they had drawn up an official reply and would release the two letters Saturday during a press conference.

The Brotherhood, Jordan's most organised political group, has opposed the peace process since it began. It has said none of

its members would agree to join the cabinet of any government involved in the peace process.

The Israeli expulsion of 415 Palestinians in December was a cause picked up by the Brotherhood in Jordan. The group argues that as long as the exiles are not returned in accordance with U.N. Security Council resolution 799 no Arab party should return to the peace talks.

The Brotherhood, however, does not support the peace talks even if the 396 exiles are returned.

When the PLO decided to sanction Palestinian participation in round nine of the peace talks the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and subsequently the Brotherhood attacked the decision.

Hamas is the Palestinian wing of the Muslim Brotherhood and the two groups are known to have the same political agenda in their respective communities.

Most of the exiles, 19 of whom have been repatriated for health reasons, are said to be supporters of Hamas.

U.N. begins long haul to rebuild Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — The United Nations began a long haul towards reconstruction of Somalia Wednesday, having assumed command of multinational forces in the turbulent African country from the United States.

U.S. special envoy Admiral Jonathan Howe told reporters Tuesday, after Washington handed over command of the troops sent in to ensure food aid reached starving Somalis, that the task was "huge and rough."

The U.N.'s job includes policing the country of six million people divided into fiefdoms, rebuilding political structures, the economy, the police, judiciary and repatriating over 400,000 refugees scattered in neighbouring countries.

Turkish General Cevik Bir, who heads the 30,800-strong U.N. force, said he was ready to take on a peace enforcement role unfamiliar to the U.N.

"We are ready to provide the same level of security as UN-

ITAD (the U.S.-led Unified Task Force) did. For those in doubt I say we are ready to impose peace on Somalia," Gen. Bir said.

The U.N. force is working in a country shattered by a two-year clan-based war.

After the overthrow of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991, the euphoria of ousting the hated leader vanished and 15 clan warlords began a bloody bid for power.

The war killed 30,000 and 10 times more people in a famine that followed. Order was only restored after the Americans stormed ashore in December and opened up roadblocks to bring in relief aid for hundreds of thousands of starving Somalis.

Adm. Howe said the U.N. would begin by setting up district political establishments, then regional ones before setting up a central form of authority.

No details have been given of how long the U.N. will remain in Somalia, but political analysts

said it could be years before the world body extricated itself from the country.

"Just maintaining security and consolidating on that will take some time," an outgoing American analyst said.

"What about setting up political structures, reviving a non-existent economy, returning refugees home and maybe calling an election? It's a long way to go," he added.

The U.N.'s force in Somalia will attempt to disarm hundreds of thousands of stubborn militias long used to living by the gun.

The U.N. has made clear that, unlike the U.S.-led force which only stopped looting of food for southern Somalia's hungry, U.N. "Blue Berets" will fan out in the Horn of Africa state to try to disarm all groups.

The U.N. will therefore take the controversial step of deploying in northern Somalia, proclaimed an independent state

by the Somali National Movement (SNM), but recognised by no government.

An SNM official told Reuters Tuesday: "We are a sovereign state, an independent people. Why should the U.N. interfere in our affairs?"

Relief workers say the U.N. will have to address the political and economic issues. Somalia has been without a functioning economy and government since 1991.

"They (the U.N.) may manage to maintain the security, but it is the politics and economy of this country that may let them down," said one relief worker.

"What do you do to all these gun-toting kids? Once you disarm them you must surely create some form of activity for them otherwise you create a vacuum," another added.

On the streets of Mogadishu, some Somalis expressed regret at the Americans' departure.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Teacher kills 4 colleagues in S. Lebanon

AIN IBL, Lebanon (R) — A teacher armed with an assault rifle shot dead four colleagues and wounded three at a school in South Lebanon Wednesday, security sources said. They said Ali Mrad, 40, burst into the administration office at the intermediate school in the village of Aitaroun and sprayed colleagues with bullets from an AK-47 assault rifle. Four teachers were killed and three wounded, they added. Teachers seized Mrad and his weapon. The sources said he was mentally disturbed and was handed over to police in Aitaroun, which is inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in the south.

Iran, Vietnam sign memo of understanding

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran and Vietnam Wednesday signed a multi-faceted memorandum of understanding, Tehran Radio reported. The two countries "agreed to cooperate in the fields of trade, oil and gas transportation, fisheries and cultural exchanges," said the radio following a meeting here between Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Manh Cam. Mr. Cam, accompanied by a high-ranking delegation, also met with Iran's Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Nategh-Nuri to discuss improving parliamentary ties between their two countries. The foreign minister's three-day visit to Tehran, which began Monday, follows a trip to Hanoi this year by Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, Abbas Maleki. On Tuesday, President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said after talks with Mr. Cam that Iran and Vietnam should help each other with post-war reconstruction. Mr. Cam promised his country "would take serious steps" to expand economic and other ties with Iran, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said. He is the first Vietnamese foreign minister to visit Iran since the Islamic revolution of 1979.

Mohammad Ali visits Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Former world heavy-weight boxing champion Mohammad Ali arrived here Wednesday to visit Muslim holy sites and meet Iranian officials, the news agency IRNA said. The U.S. boxer will visit the eastern city of Mashhad and the tomb of Iran's

late spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in southern Tehran, the head of Iran's boxing federation, Ahmad Nategh Nuri, told IRNA. Mashhad is Iran's holiest city, the site of the burial of one of Shiite Islam's most respected religious figures, Imam Reza. Iranian newspapers said Mohammad Ali — or Cassius Clay, before his conversion to Islam — may try to mediate between Iran and its arch-foe, the United States. "For years, Mohammad Ali has been used to advancing Washington's political objectives in Islamic and Third World countries," the daily Salam said.

UAE, Ethiopia set up diplomatic ties

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ethiopia Wednesday set up diplomatic relations at an ambassadorial level, the official news agency WAM reported. The announcement came after talks here between Ethiopian Interim Prime Minister Tahirat Layne and Deputy Prime Minister Sultan Ben Zayed Al Nahayan. The prime minister, who left after a three-day visit, discussed economic cooperation and farming as well as industrial and tourism investment in Ethiopia, WAM said.

Dentkash wins parliament support for talks

ANKARA (R) — The Turkish-Cypriot parliament endorsed Rauf Dentkash Wednesday as negotiator for the Turkish-Cypriot community in U.N.-sponsored Cyprus talks. A parliament resolution said it backed the intercommunal talks and reiterated support for Mr. Dentkash's authority as negotiator for about 160,000 Turkish Cypriots, the Turkish-Cypriot Tak news agency said. Mr. Dentkash last month accused the ruling National Unity party of Prime Minister Dervis Eroglu of undermining his position in the talks and threatened to resign as negotiator if parliament did not confirm its confidence in him. He is president of the breakaway Turkish-Cypriot state in the north, recognised by Ankara alone. The international community recognises Greek-Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides as Cyprus president. Mr. Dentkash is due to meet Mr. Clerides and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in New York on May 24 to resume stalled talks on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federal Cyprus. Mr. Eroglu had opposed land concessions to Greek Cypriots agreed by Mr. Dentkash in the U.N. talks, but said recently that he and his party did not dispute Mr. Dentkash's authority to negotiate.

Jordanians lose heavily

(Continued from page 1)

government officials are exempt from the closure," an official at the Iraqi embassy said.

Jordanian officials declined comment on the Iraqi move, pointing out that it was a "sovereign decision of a foreign government."

"The measure has come within the context of the authority of the Iraqi government, and as such we have no comment," said Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

On the impact on the withdrawal of 25-dinar notes move on Jordanians, Dr. Nabulsi noted that as a policy the CBJ discourages people from speculating in any currency.

"We have issued warnings to exchangers in the past not to speculate in any currency, particularly Iraqi dinars in one instance but it was a different situation," Dr. Nabulsi told the Jordan Times, recalling that the CBJ had to adopt the

action last year when money-changers were seen indulging in speculating in Iraqi dinars or encouraging people to do so with hopes that the Iraqi currency would sooner or later regain its pre-crisis value.

Dr. Nabulsi said he could not say how much Jordanians might have lost after Wednesday's Iraqi measure, but most money-changers and banking officials estimated the loss to be not less than \$100 million.

"Almost every second person in Jordan seemed to have been holding Iraqi dinars," said Marwan Al Alami of Alami Exchange Company. "I was one of those warning everyone against dealing in Iraqi dinars, but few people paid any notice."

The "Swiss" or "European" notes used to fetch a higher rate of exchange in Jordan than the so-called, crude "askari" (military) notes printed by the Iraqi government to meet local needs in the wake of the Gulf crisis when the British government refused to fulfil an earlier contract to

print Iraqi banknotes.

The reasoning for the higher value for the "Swiss notes" was that the Iraqi government could withdraw the "askari" notes when the situation returns to normal but not the European-printed currency. But, as things turned out, Baghdad, long known for its unpredictability, opted for just the opposite direction.

In theory, those in possession of the "Swiss notes" could get them exchanged for new notes from Iraq's Rafidain and Rashid banks in Baghdad until May 10, but the closure of the border effectively precludes this option for holders of the currency outside the country (in any case, travellers into Iraq were only permitted to carry less than 2,000 Iraqi dinars).

The withdrawal of the 25-dinar notes ("Swiss" notes of 10-dinar and five-dinar notes remain valid) followed a series of Iraqi government measures aimed at shoring up its beleaguered economy.

On Monday, it imposed a fee of 15,000 Iraqi dinars on every Iraqi wishing to travel

outside the country. Although less than \$200 in the black market, the fee represents a major hurdle for most Iraqis, who also have to pay black market prices for foreign currency needed for travel.

Iraqi economy has been steadily losing steam after the imposition of the international sanctions, which deprived the country of oil revenues, its mainstay income, of an estimated \$15 billion a year.

Food subsidies, a key means adopted by the government to keep people's frustrations under check, are believed to cost Baghdad up to \$100 million a month. The subsidised food meets up to 40 per cent of an average Iraqi family's need, and the total imported food needs of the country of 18 million people are estimated to cost \$250 million a month.

Recent reports said Iraq was selling its gold reserves — estimated to be worth \$5 billion prior to the Gulf crisis — to raise foreign currency to pay for food imports and maintain the subsidies after the government's pre-crisis reserves within the country and outside had dwindled.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO	7:30	7:45	7:55	8:15	8:30	8:45	9:00	9:15	9:30	9:45	10:00	10:15	10:30	10:45	11:00	11:15	11:30	11:45	12:00	12:15	12:30	12:45	13:00	13:15	13:30	13:45	14:00	14:15	14:30	14:45	15:00	15:15	15:30	15:45	16:00	16:15	16:30	16:45	17:00	17:15	17:30	17:45	18:00	18:15	18:30	18:45	19:00	19:15	19:30	19:45	20:00	20:15	20:30	20:45	21:00	21:15	21:30	21:45	22:00	22:15	22:30	22:45	23:00	23:15	23:30	23:45	24:00	24:15	24:30	24:45	25:00	25:15	25:30	25:45	26:00	26:15	26:30	26:45	27:00	27:15	27:30	27:45	28:00	28:15	28:30	28:45	29:00	29:15	29:30	29:45	30:00	30:15	30:30	30:45	31:00	31:15	31:30	31:45	32:00	32:15	32:30	32:45	33:00	33:15	33:30	33:45	34:00	34:15	34:30	34:45	35:00	35:15	35:30	35:45	36:00	36:15	36:30	36:45	37:00	37:15	37:30	37:45	38:00	38:15	38:30	38:45	39:00	39:15	39:30	39:45	40:00	40:15	40:30	40:45	41:00	41:15	41:30	41:45	42:00	42:15	42:30	42:45	43:00	43:15	43:30	43:45	44:00	44:15	44:30	44:45	45:00	45:15	45:30	45:45	46:00	46:15	46:30	46:45	47:00	47:15	47:30	47:45	48:00	48:15	48:30	48:45	49:00	49:15	49:30	49:45	50:00	50:15	50:30	50:45	51:00	51:15	51:30	51:45	52:00	52:15	52:30	52:45	53:00	53:15	53:30	53:45	54:00	54:15	54:30	54:45	55:00	55:15	55:30	55:45	56:00	56:15	56:30	56:45	57:00	57:15	57:30	57:45	58:00	58:15	58:30	58:45	59:00	59:15	59:30	59:45	60:00	60:15	60:30	60:45	61:00	61:15	61:30	61:45	62:00	6
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His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Wednesday received at the Royal Court, in separate meetings, Qatari Ambassador Nasser Abdul Aziz Al Nasser (above right) and Indonesian Ambassador Mohammad Adami. Prince Mohammad discussed with the two ambassadors ways of enhancing cooperation between Jordan and their respective countries. The Prince also received a visiting chess team from Hebron, currently on a visit to Jordan to compete in matches with Jordanian teams.

SSC invests JD 519 m in Jordanian projects

AMMAN (Petra) — By the end of March 1993, the total number of citizens benefiting from the Social Security Corporation (SSC) Law in Jordan reached 700,000, and JD 519 million of their premiums collected by the corporation are now invested in Jordanian projects.

The news was announced by an official SSC spokesman who said part of the collected funds is kept in interest-bearing bank accounts, but a major portion is being invested in agricultural, tourism, services, housing and other socio-economic projects in the country to increase SSC's revenues.

The SSC, which became operational at the start of 1980, is conducting its work through 13 offices in various governorates, offering services to beneficiaries and their dependents, the spokesman said.

All institutions employing five persons or more are required by law to join the SSC, but individuals running their own

businesses, such as grocery stores or farms, can join the SSC plan, provided they pay the full premiums as required by the SSC law, noted the spokesman.

The SSC law is designed to provide protection and security to workers during their retirement, or in cases of death, occupational injuries, illness and unemployment, he explained.

But provisions such as security against unemployment, he said, are not yet applied by the SSC law in Jordan, adding that it is hoped that in the coming years the law would be applied in full.

To date 25,925 workers or their dependents are receiving a monthly pension, which combined, amounted to JD 48.367 million at the end of March 1993, added the spokesman.

Also by the end of March, he said, the SSC had paid lump sum compensation to 153,712 workers, totalling JD 61.22 million, and it paid JD 6.475 million to cover the cost of medical treatment for injured workers.

JTA office markets \$5.5 m in Sudan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Trade Association (JTA), which opened a trade office in Khartoum, last November announced here Wednesday that it has marketed \$500,000 worth of Jordanian products in Sudan in only two months.

Considering this efforts as a major achievement, Halim Abu Rahme, head of the JTA Amman office, told the Jordan Times that in the last two months Sudanese importers have either placed orders for or already taken delivery of Jordanian products that include paints, gas cookers, washing machines, tissue paper,

plastic bags, syringes, computer paper rolls, car filters, calcium carbonate, garments and pesticides.

The JTA recently reached an agreement with the Arab Bank Ltd. to offer Jordanian exporters special credit facilities to finance trade with Sudan, outside the provisions of a Jordanian-Sudanese trade protocol, said Mr. Abu Rahme.

The Bank of Jordan is currently responsible for settling payments and offering facilities to Jordanian exporters within the Jordanian-Sudanese trade protocol, signed in 1991.

Torrential rains drench the north

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Rain of unexpected intensity drenched the northern and central parts of the country Wednesday as a result of a depression which was centred over southern Syria and Northern Jordan.

The Department of Meteorology said that Ras Mufid, near Ajloun in the North received 18 millimetres of rain by noon Wednesday, and Irbid received an estimated 14 millimetres.

Accompanied by relatively high winds blowing at the average rate of 65 kilometres per hour, the depression caused a drop in temperatures, of about 10°C, the highest temperatures was registered in Amman at 14, said department spokesman Jamal Al

Mousa.

He said that the rain will taper off Thursday noon, but temperatures will not rise above 17°C.

Khamasitic conditions which triggered the depression and the subsequent rain Wednesday are expected to dominate the region again starting Friday, when temperature will rise to 23°C, and Saturday when they are expected to reach 30°C, said Mr. Mousa.

By the weekend, humidity will diminish, giving way to dusty and hazy weather, which could continue through Sunday, he added.

Agriculture Minister Fayez Khasawneh told the Jordan Times that rain at this time of the year could delay the harvesting of lentils and wheat, normally conducted in June.

But, he added, trees, summer vegetables and fruits will benefit immensely from the rain.

11-fold increase in cars raises road accidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — The rise in the number of road accidents in Jordan is mainly attributable to the 11-fold increase in the number of vehicles in the country in 20 years, says a bulletin released Wednesday by a special committee that prepared the current Traffic Week celebrations.

According to the bulletin, the number of vehicles in Jordan rose from 27,000 in 1971 to 270,000 in 1991.

Last year road accidents numbered 20,000 killed 338 citizens and injured 11,000 said the bulletin.

The figures were released as Traffic Week celebrations were observed in Irbid Wednesday, where a general ceremony was addressed by Deputy governor Khalaf Mahasneh, who emphasised the need for better road conditions and vehicle maintenance.

Mr. Mahasneh also stressed that parents and schools can play a major role in spreading traffic safety awareness among children who, he said were the main vic-

tims of road accidents.

Irbid Mayor Sami Irsheidat called on the concerned authorities to re-examine city planning and traffic rules with a view to improving road conditions and enacting new road use rules for different types of vehicles.

According to the mayor, most of the victims of road accidents in Irbid governorate last year were children under 10 years of age.

Between 1985 and 1992, a total of 18,037 people were either killed or injured on Jordan's roads, the mayor said.

The first day Traffic Week was observed Tuesday, in Amman, at a ceremony held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) under the patronage of Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoul.

Several citizens representing government and private institutions and the Amman Municipality were presented awards by Mr. Shoul, in recognition of their efforts towards reducing road accidents or for close cooperation with the Traffic Department.

Israel still has more concessions to make — former U.S. senator

By Stephanie Genkin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received former U.S. Senator George McGovern at the Royal Court.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that King Hussein and Mr. McGovern discussed the peace process and means of pushing it forward in order to arrive at a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement and achieve stability in the region.

At a press conference later, Senator McGovern said that although Israel believes it has made substantial concessions to the Palestinians by allowing the return of 30 deportees expelled after 1967, Israel still has more concessions to make at the negotiating table.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday receives at the Royal Court former U.S. Senator George McGovern who is currently visiting Jordan (Petra photo).

Mr. McGovern listed numerous concessions made by the Palestinians, suggesting that one Israeli gesture does not even-up the score.

The Palestinians, said Senator McGovern, have compromised on the formation of the Palestinian delegation and the terms of negotiations. They have also recognised the existence of Israel as a state, accepted UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and renounced the use of terrorism, he added.

"They (the Palestinians) have made one concession after another," said the senator who hopes to see more flexibility on the part of Israel as the peace talks continue in Washington.

Senator McGovern is on a three-week tour of the region as president of the Middle East Policy Council, a non-profit think-tank aimed at informing and educating the American public on a wide array of regional issues.

With the resumption of the peace talks, and U.S. President Clinton's declared commitment to a settlement, Mr. McGovern is optimistic that progress is within reach.

"With the Middle East peace talks resuming, there is reason to believe — not today or tomorrow — concerted effort will lead to a settlement," he said.

The senator pointed out that

the desire for a peaceful settlement is a new attitude in the region and a source of encouragement. As opposed to the past, he maintained, today all parties are interested in a settlement. He added that the challenge remains to reconcile the different terms for peace.

"If that analysis is right, this is a very important time we are passing through," he said.

But Senator McGovern's positive outlook was not at the expense of pragmatism.

Stressing the importance of concessions, he added that "no one will get 100% of what they want."

During his comments on the peace process, the former senator reiterated the Clinton administration's commitment to continue to play the part of the "honest broker" as well as assuming the role of "full partner" to further the negotiations.

Although some have suggested that full partner status may entail a change in the U.S. participation, he explained that the terms are "a semantic difference, rather than a difference of fact."

Refuting the claim by some that Islamic "fundamentalism" is a new "boogymen" replacing the U.S. fear of international Communism, Senator McGovern reiterated a recent statement by

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Edward Djerejian.

"Islam is a religion that the U.S. government respects," he said, adding that a distinction needs to be made between militant and progressive brands of Islam. "To build it up into some great, all-consuming threat would be a mistake," he added.

Although he condemned those forces which seek to obstruct negotiations and progress, he said that in some societies "fundamentalism may even be an improvement."

Senator McGovern was careful to diagnose the root of Islamic extremism, explaining that it stems from a climate of desperation, as extremism does in any other region in the world.

According to Mr. McGovern, religious extremism occurs when people get to a point when they think that their government isn't doing anything to solve their problems. "You see it (extremism) in Northern Ireland too," he added.

Attributing much of the region's extremism to the unresolved problem of Palestine, Senator McGovern asserts that a settlement to the Palestinian plight, as well as social, economic, and political progress in the

Middle East will decrease the popular appeal of the Islamic extremists.

Just how the Clinton administration will handle its conflict with Iraq was not exactly clear from the former Senator's statements. He did support President Clinton's gestures to depersonalise the animosity between the two leaders, which he noted was largely responsible for the brutal eight-year Iran-Iraq war.

He expressed the hope that President Clinton will continue to distance himself from the personal vendetta approach, which he suggested characterised former President Bush's attitude to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"It will be easier with him at some point to reach an agreement with the Iraqis than the previous administration," Senator McGovern said.

Uncertain when the U.N. would lift the embargo against Iraq, Senator McGovern said that Iraq must abide by all U.N. resolutions before it can hope to change its current state of isolation.

"The U.N. might take steps to pull Iraq back into the family of nations," he said.

"However, Saddam Hussein doesn't make this easy," he added.

Belgian official to ask EC to form joint information office

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Belgium's Minister for External Trade, Robert Urbain, Wednesday concluded his official visit to Jordan by announcing his decision to propose to the European Community (EC) in Brussels the creation of a special information office to jointly serve the business interests of Belgian and Jordanian traders and businessmen.

The information office, which would follow the pattern of those opened by the EC for the benefit of Tunisia and Czechoslovakia, would serve as a data base offering information to businessmen on import/export and investment

prospects, Mr. Urbain said in a statement to the Jordan Times before leaving on a two-day sightseeing tour of the country.

He said that Jordanian businessmen are expected to benefit immensely from the information office and increase the volume of their trade with Belgium and the EC countries.

President of the Amman Chamber of Industry Khalidoun Abu Hassan said in a statement to the Jordan Times that he was going to Brussels next week in order to follow-up on his talks with Mr. Urbain, as well as the Belgian official's talks with the government and the business sectors that ended in the signing of minutes Tuesday evening.

Mr. Urbain, who Wednesday headed for Petra and Aqaba, and he was deeply impressed with Jordan's diligent efforts in pursuing its democratisation process.

He expressed hope that the talks and the exchange of visits by businessmen from Belgium and Jordan would open more avenues for trade links and economic

cooperation.

Mr. Urbain and Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour signed the minutes of the talks held over the last two days, stressing the need for officials in the private and public sectors of both countries to promote trade links and increase Jordanian exports to EC countries.

The minutes provide for closer cooperation between the two sides in agriculture, tourism, energy and mineral resources.

The two ministers, who conducted the talks at the head of a joint economic commission, announced that Jordan would take part in the annual tourism exhibition in Brussels where Jordan plans to open a permanent tourist office.

They also announced plans to amend their agreement on air transport, which would allow the national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), to increase its flights to Brussels from two to four per week and permit the airline to pick up passengers from Brussels enroute to Canada.

Humanitarian law requires full enforcement, says ICRC

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in events and conflicts occurring in the Middle East, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia and Afghanistan were among the main topics discussed by an ICRC-sponsored meeting in Amman over the last two days.

The meeting, called to discuss "the implementation of humanitarian law," also focused attention on Red Cross activities vis-

vis victims of civil strife.

Five ICRC representatives and 16 delegates from Arab states and the Israeli-occupied Arab territories took part in the meetings which opened in Amman Tuesday.

Zuheir Shalhi, who represented the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Tunis delivered a lecture on the question of deportation of citizens and refugees which focused mainly on the Palestinian refugees and expelled.

Dr. Tawfiq Bou Aish spoke on

the ICRC activities in dealing with victims caught in armed conflicts and on ICRC relief work.

The participants discussed and recommended the formation of an international tribunal to try war criminals, adding that many governments were abusing the international humanitarian law.

The Geneva Conventions, providing for protection of civilians in armed conflicts, failed to include the imposition of penalties on combatants who disregard international laws, said the participants.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- EXHIBITIONS**
- Exhibition of photographs from Jordan by Arslan Ramadan at the Circassian Society, 7th Circle.
 - Close-up photograph exhibition entitled "Intimate Petra" by Paula Williams-Brown and original embossed, hand-painted prints by Rima Farah at the Gallery, Inter-Continental Hotel.
 - Art exhibition entitled "The Legend of Petra II" by artist Saba Shoman at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.
 - Art exhibition by Jordanian artist Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
 - Art exhibition by Syrian Artist Youssef Abdelke at Al Balka'a Gallery, Al Fuhels city.
 - Art exhibition entitled "Fragments: Weavings and Works on Paper" by Kevin A. Hinch and Margaret M. Hinch at the American Centre.
 - Save the Children Designer Showcase: Exhibition of rugs, quilts, cushions, wall hangings, picture frames, lamp shades, leather handbags, canvas tote bags, natural olive oil soap, collector's dolls, food, embroidered fashion-wear, baskets and seating; all manufactured by the Bani Hamida and the Jordan River Designs projects. The exhibition is at a new building next to the Business Bank, between Mukhabarat Bridge and the Prime Ministry (4th Circle), Queen Noor Street.
 - Exhibition of contemporary Japanese posters at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - Exhibition of posters at the Goethe Institut.
- BALLET**
- Ballet by Al Abhiya School for Girls at the Royal Cultural Centre.

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A place for scholars and rights

THE MEETING of Muslim scholars under the auspices of the Royal Academy of Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Beit Foundation) to discuss Muslim rights could not have occurred at a more opportune time. With only a few weeks left before the convening of the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, there is a pressing need for the Islamic World to come up with a coherent stand on human rights that could serve as a basis for a common Islamic stance in Austria.

With the North and South still deeply split on the agenda and objectives of the Vienna conference, our Muslim countries have a rare occasion to contribute to the success of the international human rights forum. Many efforts were made in the past to spell out the real position of the Islamic Nation on contemporary norms of human rights. There is little doubt that an enlightened interpretation of the Holy Book and a reasonable construction of the Hadith and Al Qias would put the Islamic World at the forefront of the community of nations in their pursuit of more progressive human rights guidelines and standards. Before the Islamic peoples and countries can perform that mission, however, they need to get together and agree on where their faith stands.

We take it that the current meeting in Amman, under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, aims to do just that, even though the extent of the representation in it appears to fall short of the desired goal. It would have been more useful for the mandate of this meeting to have had more scholars and imams from the rest of the Islamic World present and participating. But a broader based gathering can be convened soon on the strength and achievements of the current mini-Islamic gathering, then the universality of the message of the current forum can be further advanced. The important thing is to get the deliberations on Islamic perception of human rights rolling as of now, especially on the eve of the Vienna conference.

On top of the list of issues that Islamic scholars need to address is equality between the sexes, pluralism and parliamentary forms of government. On socio-economic levels, Islamic teachings are more clearcut. It is sufficient to recall in this vein how Islam fosters and promotes competition, and at the same time shuns monopolies, in order to realise how advanced Islamic standards in this field really are. Social security occupies a prominent place in Islamic jurisprudence and can be highlighted as evidence of the progressive teachings of Islam. Still such topics, as well as issues pertaining to civil and political rights, call for continuous, more concerted efforts to make the world better understand Islam's stance on human rights. We thus hope the Amman meeting of Muslim scholars will provide the right contribution to achieve that goal.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Wednesday dwelt on the outcome of the parliamentary elections held recently in Yemen and said that any victory for democracy "in a world can only be a welcome development for the JORDANIAN people. The parliamentary elections in Yemen, said the paper, mark the beginning of the Arab Nation's serious efforts towards democracy and freedom enabling the Arab masses to take control of their own destiny. We are certain that democracy will come out victorious no matter how hard reactionary forces tried to impede its progress, and we are sure that the only way for the Arabs to dispose of the problems that have been plaguing their lives for so long can come through democratic rule, said the daily. It said that millions of Arabs have been suffering for decades as a result of the repression and terrorism exercised by their rulers, who have been depriving their people of freedom and free expression and a share in shaping their own future and destiny. Gone is the age when the Arab masses were driven like sheep to the slaughter house, and the time has come for the Arabs to live the age of democracy which can end repression, corruption and terrorism, stressed the paper. The paper said that democracy, which started in Jordan, has found its way to Yemen, and will extend to the other Arab states.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily bitterly criticised a decision, taken by the government of Kuwait to build a fortified trench extending 150 kilometres along the borders with Iraq. Though the Kuwaitis realise the fact that such a trench can by no means provide the aspired defence against any Iraqi attack in the age of technology and rockets, the trench is to be built at the advice of the United States which had obviously persuaded the Kuwaiti rulers to set it up, said Saleh El Qallab. The writer expressed belief that American companies are to build this trench which will cost \$120 million. The project is clearly intended to benefit American companies and not to provide protection for the Kuwaiti regime in the face of an all-out conflict in the region, he added. The writer said it was obvious that the former U.S. president, who launched aggression in Iraq, was behind this idea to ensure some gains and benefits for his country's construction firms. Hostilities among nations can never last, and the closure of borders among Arab states can never help the rulers of Kuwait to achieve their evil ambitions, said the writer. Barbed wires, mines, trenches and other barriers, he added, were futile and achieved nothing for the countries that had built them in the past, nor will they be useful to others in the future.

The birth of Israel — a calamity for Palestinians

By Pascal B. Karmy

As Israel celebrates the 45th anniversary of its birth this month, few people in the West realise or try to understand how Israel was born. Put bluntly, Israel was born on the bodies and skeletons of Palestinians and on the rubble of Palestinian villages, towns and homes which were savagely destroyed by the Israelis. Suffice to mention a few examples: the massacres of Deir Yassin, Qibya, Kafr Qassem and Sabra and Shatila, which were perpetrated before and after the creation of Israel.

A Holocaust Memorial Museum was opened in Washington D.C. a few weeks ago to commemorate the killing of the Jews in Europe during World War II, as if they were the only people who were brutally killed, tortured and persecuted during the same period. As human beings, we Palestinians sympathise with the Jews of the world for the suffering they endured during World War II. But it is indeed ironic and strange that some of those Jews who suffered at Nazi hands are brutalising the Palestinians the same way the Nazis did them.

After independence, Palesti-

nians must build a martyrs monument to commemorate their holocaust at the hands of Israel. After 1948 a heated debate took place between the Israeli ambassador to Canada and the well-known British historian, the late Arnold Toynbee. During the debate, the ambassador asked Toynbee how he could compare or equate the Jewish holocaust of World War II with the massacres of Deir Yassin and other places in Palestine. Toynbee replied without hesitation that there was a difference between them in quantity but not in quality.

The Palestinians have been victimised by the brutal Israeli occupation of Palestine in 1948 which uprooted them from their homeland and expelled them to become refugees in the neighbouring Arab countries. In 1948 when Israel became a reality, 780,000 Arab Palestinians were expelled and expelled. They number now over four million in the diaspora. Even the 150,000 Palestinians who managed to remain in Palestine after the 1948 war and became Israeli citizens were harassed, discriminated against and subjected to harsh military authority and rule. It was

only after 1966 that Israel abolished some of the military rule restrictions imposed upon the Palestinians of Israel.

At that time, that is to say before 1967, some Israeli and Zionist leaders tried to use them as "hewers of wood and carriers of water" as quoted in their Old

came under occupation in 1967, besides their harassment, torture and the destruction of their homes and expulsion of their leaders, Israel has tried to eradicate their Palestinian identity and culture, to dehumanise them and consider them a merely tolerable nuisance. From among the

"In 1948 when Israel became a reality, 780,000 Arab Palestinians were dispossessed and expelled. They number now over four million in the diaspora. Even the 150,000 Palestinians who managed to remain in Palestine after the 1948 war and became Israeli citizens were harassed, discriminated against and subjected to harsh military authority and rule."

Testament of the Bible. When this failed, they called for the "transfer", a euphemism for expulsion. Although Israel's official policy is against such transfer, in their heart of hearts the Israelis, or the majority of them, wish this transfer would take place.

As for the Palestinians who

thousands of possible examples of identity and culture-related harassment. I think two from Professor Edward Said's book "After The Last Sky" are particularly illustrative. Fathi Gubein, an Arab, Palestinian artist from Gaza, was given a six-month prison sentence for using black,

green, red and white (the colours of the Palestinian flag) in one of his colours. An exhibition of Palestinian Arab Culture at Al Najah University in Nablus earned the school four months closing.

Had it not been for Palestinian resistance and endurance, Israel would have obliterated Palestinians from existence as a people and from the history books. Presently, and despite the current peace negotiations, Israeli occupation authorities are subjecting the Palestinians to the most brutal methods to stem their resistance, but have utterly failed.

The international community should be reminded that at the Lausanne Conference, which sought in 1949 under the aegis of the United Nations to settle the Palestine problem, including that of the refugees, Israel refused to budge from its intransigent position; it refused to make any of the desired concessions on refugees and boundaries. President Truman, who was an ardent supporter of Israel, sent a note to Israel on May 29, 1949 through his ambassador, James G. McDo-

nald, which was critical of Israel's attitude at the conference. The note interpreted Israel's attitude as dangerous to peace and as indicating disregard of United Nations General Assembly resolutions of Nov. 29, 1947, regarding partition and boundaries, and of Dec. 11, 1948, concerning the return of the refugees. The note further reaffirmed insistence that territorial compensation should be made for territory taken in excess of the Nov. 29, 1947 resolution and that tangible refugee concessions should be made now as an essential preliminary to any prospect of general settlement.

Will Israel heed the advice of President Truman, as outlined in the above-mentioned note, in conjunction with the subsequent Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338? The current bilateral and multilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians will test the intentions of Israel on whether it is prepared to withdraw from occupied Arab territories and to give the option to the Palestinians to either return to their homeland or to be compensated as was resolved in U.N. Resolution 194 of Dec. 11, 1948.

M. KAHIL



Israel, Palestinian-less, finds little work is getting done

By Clyde Haberman

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Sergei Krakovsky took it personally when Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin talked the other day about returning the country to its hard-labouring Zionist origins. Scornfully, Mr. Rabin spoke of "a culture of idleness" that he said had developed among Israelis, a problem much discussed here since Israel sealed off its occupied territories nearly a

this vulnerable category. A Moscow-trained economist, he emigrated to Israel two years ago but has yet to find the right job. As he sees it, forcing him to take any kind of work, just because it is there, makes no sense either for him or for his new country. And he certainly is no freeloader, he says.

"I feel I can do something good for Israel if I can work in my profession, not in something else," he said on a visit to an employment office in Jerusalem. "New immigrants are not lazy. We want to work. We have something to contribute — but in our fields."

Regardless of who is right on the jobs bill, the prolonged shutdown of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, keeping as many as 120,000 Palestinians from their jobs and spreading hardship throughout the occupied territories, has forced Israelis to come to grips with their work habits. As they began celebrating the 45th anniversary of their nation's creation, many were far from happy with what they had discovered.

After the 1967 war, Israel grew reliant on — critics would say addicted to — Palestinian labourers from the newly acquired territories, whose own economic fate became intertwined with Israel's by a combination of happenstance and Israeli design.

Lacking enough work where they lived, they trooped across the pre-1967 borders to take back-breaking jobs in construction and agriculture that Israelis increasingly refused to go near. The Palestinians often received appreciably less than the Israeli minimum wage, now set at about \$2.50 an hour.

month ago. With few Palestinians now able to get to work in Israel, tens of thousands of farming and construction jobs have gone begging.

There are "freeloaders," Mr. Rabin said, among the 11 per cent of Israelis who are unemployed, and he said he knew how to deal with them. Indeed his government began pushing a bill through parliament that would require jobless people under the age of 35 to accept any position offered them at employment offices or else lose their state benefits.

At 23, Mr. Krakovsky falls into

ties and Israel proper, for it has produced different classes of workers and, she said, a situation in which Jewish business people often deny "just wages" to Palestinian labourers.

Not all Israelis are as troubled by their work patterns as she is. Many argue that Israel is no different from West European countries, which also have high unemployment rates yet must im-

"The output of a Jewish worker is approximately 20 per cent of the output of an Arab. The cost of the Jewish worker is 80 per cent higher. With Jewish workers, I have damages. Picking isn't picking, and spraying isn't spraying. They aren't used to working hard."

port labour because their own people will not accept jobs deemed to be short on pay, status and opportunity. It is especially pointless, they say, to force recent immigrants from the former Soviet Union like Mr. Krakovsky to take jobs that squander the higher education and technological skills that many brought with them.

"We put a lot of emphasis on going forward," said Rivka Bar Yosef, a sociologist at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. "Asking people to accept cheap labour goes against what we were fighting for from the founding of the state, and it is asking them to regress, financially and socially."

Nonetheless, Mrs. Namir said the government was committed to kicking the habit of cheap

Arab labours. She hopes to begin on a relatively modest scale by replacing 20,000 Palestinians with Israelis before year's end, using higher wages as a lure and enforcing labour laws that tended to be ignored when Arabs were involved.

It is not an insurmountable challenge, other officials said, pointing out that Arabs from the West Bank and Gaza had accounted for only 6 per cent of the Israeli work force. But that overlooks the Palestinians' importance in key sectors: They made up 50 per cent of the force in construction and far more than that in agriculture, where it was not unheard of for them to be paid as little as \$8 or \$9 a day.

So dominant were they that in their absence, Israeli employers have lost millions of dollars in just a few weeks. Quick-fix attempts to bring in Jewish replacements, including soldiers and volunteers from the United States, worked spottily at best. And in one news article after another, Israeli farmers and builders have complained that the Jewish workers they manage to find are not nearly as competent or hard-working as the Palestinian regulars.

"Jewish work is something I stand by," Haim Kabir, an Israeli farmer in the Gaza Strip, told the magazine Ha-Olam Hazei.

But he added: "The output of a Jewish worker is approximately 20 per cent of the output of an Arab. The cost of the Jewish worker is 80 per cent higher. With Jewish workers, I have damages. Picking isn't picking, and spraying isn't spraying. They aren't used to working hard."

Israeli building contractors are so worried about their prospects that they asked the government to allow in 20,000 Palestinian labourers immediately, or at least to permit the importation of 10,000 Thais, Poles and other foreigners who would help train Israelis in construction. Acknowledging the problem, the government has opened the door a crack for some 13,000 Palestinians from the territories, most of them for farm work — New York Times.

LETTERS

Congratulations!

To the Editor:

I have travelled to Amman many times on vacation and I found the country to be among the best in the world in most issues ranging from hospitality, open-mindedness and respect for human dignity to true and unconditional love.

Jordan is perhaps one of the few developing countries in the world today where everything works and people are absolutely honest. The cities and rural areas are very tidy. And tourist centres like Aqaba, Mount Nebo and Jerash, to mention but a few, make Jordan a place to visit for vacation.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate His Majesty King Hussein on the 40th anniversary of his assuming constitutional power. The King is the most pragmatic leader ever seen in any developing nation.

Dr. Samuel I. Ihemdi,
P.O. Box 867,
Natick, Ma 01760,
U.S.A.

The price of human rights

To the Editor:

The headline of a Reuter story on Iraq that appeared in your issue of May 4 should have read "Iraq adds new twist to U.N. Resolution 660" (on sanctions against Iraq) instead of "Iraq restricts foreign travel to prop up dinar." Travel, one of the few basic human rights remaining for the Iraqi citizen, now costs 15,000 Iraqi dinars. I am not an economist, but I cannot help wondering what the impact of the gold/golden/gold-guided, horse-drawn carriage, made especially for the birthday celebration of the Iraqi president on April 28, had on the value of the dinar.

The moral of my letter, I think, could be: Human rights can be bought for the right fee.

Samira Freaa,
Amman.

Frustrating news

To the Editor:

As one of the regular readers of your daily newspaper, I can not but bow in respect for the marvelous job your people are doing to ensure the issuance of a first rate English daily.

However, the effort made by such dedicated staff is sometimes thwarted by the poor quality of typing/printing and in rare cases by the tiny fonts used in some articles.

To support my argument, I refer to the Monday (May 3, 1993) issue of the Jordan Times, and in particular to pages three and four where the lead story on page three and the editorial were sacrificed at the altar of wrong cutting. And this is not the first time such a mishap has taken place. It tends to become a regular feature. Therefore, may I ask you to kindly remedy the situation, particularly as the Jordan Times is the only English language daily in the country.

J. Azzeh,
Amman.

Spare our planet

To the Editor:

The Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) and the Friedrich-Naumann Foundation of Germany are covering environmental issues and trying to bring them to the attention of the public in as many ways as possible.

One such way is a photograph competition of local environmental problems.

The previous competition, the Environmental Posters Competition, showed creativity and depth of meaning. Realistic, vivid images portraying the explosive effect of lack of consideration to our mother nature were portrayed in silent pictures.

The photography competition's aim is to increase the Jordanian people's awareness of the environmental problems. Participants of all ages are invited to participate in capturing still life that reveals the injustice we bear against our mother earth.

I sincerely hope that this coming photography contest and all future activities will receive the support towards a cleaner and healthier tomorrow.

Reem Bsaio,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Weekender

Swedes, Danes and Norwegians love to hate each other

By Lars Foyen

COPENHAGEN — They are all tall and blonde, speak similar languages and live in a big happy welfare society tucked away in snowbound northern Europe.

But any Swede, Norwegian or Dane will testify that the stereotype of one homogenous and happy Scandinavian family just isn't true.

For despite indisputable similarities, the Scandinavians jealously guard their distinct national characters — resulting in uneasy regional love-hate relationships.

The differences surfaced earlier this year when Thor Pedersen, interior minister in Denmark's Ritzau News Conservative-Liberal government, joked that he wished he could send the army to prevent the Swedes from reopening a controversial nuclear reactor across the water from Copenhagen.

Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt responded with a serious protest. The Danish

media concluded gleefully that while Swedes can be proud of their Volvo cars, they lack a sense of humour.

Swedish Defence Minister Anders Björck rehabilitated denied honour by threatening to invade with "surströmming", a foul-smelling national fish dish, and a Danish newspaper sent reporters to place smelly cheese at the reactor.

Former Danish Prime Minister Poul Schlüter tried to smooth things over by saying:

"In my experience the Swedes do have a sense of humour. But each country has its national soul and although the sense of humour in both countries is on a very high level, they are not the same."

The row led to a debate in the Danish media about the similarities and differences, by Denmark's Ritzau News. A panel of experts has asked Denmark's Ritzau News Agency to give its views.

They concluded the Swedes were formal, efficient

and rather melancholy, with a tendency to see themselves as role models for the world.

Norwegians were seen as ever-cheerful, naive, adventurous, outdoor people. Danes were characterised as excessively fun-loving individualists, who unlike the Swedes, hate rules and regulations.

Per Egil Mjåvatn, head of a Norwegian centre for paediatric research, said the difference could be seen in the attitude towards child accidents, more frequent in Norway than in Sweden.

"When a Danish child falls and gets hurt, he is given comfort and love. In Sweden, a committee is established to explore how such accidents can be prevented in the future. In Norway, the child is told to get on his feet and stop crying."

History explains some of the tensions.

The Swedes and the Danes fought for Nordic hegemony for centuries, but it was Stockholm which emerged victorious by winning what is

now southern Sweden from Denmark, and becoming the effective rulers of Norway.

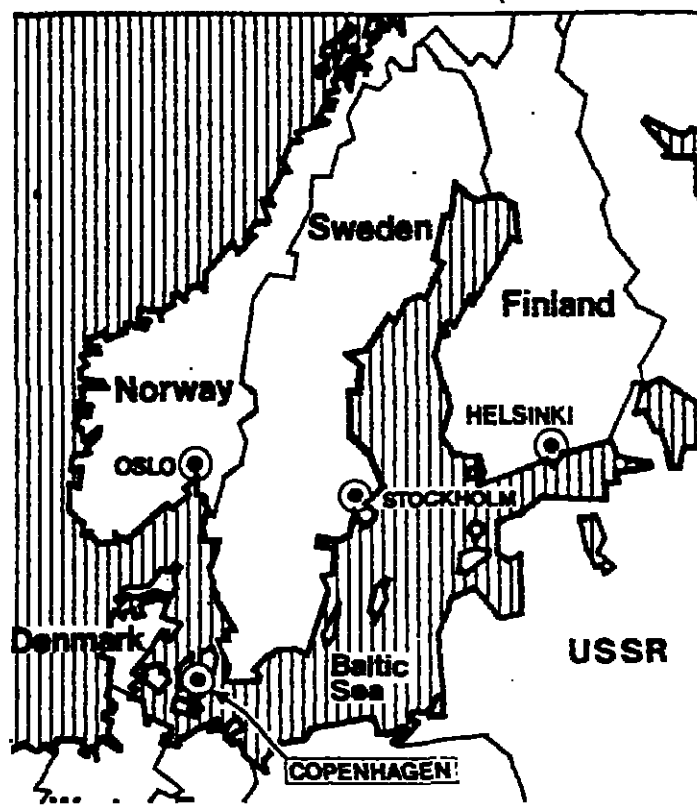
Norway did not achieve full independence until the turn of this century and there is nothing Norwegians love more than beating the Swedes at sport. The Swedes in turn like to portray Norwegians as stupid in so-called "Norway jokes".

The similarities between the three countries dominate. All have Lutheran state churches with low attendance rates but the Protestant influence is revealed in a work ethic and social responsibility reflected in cradle-to-grave welfare states.

There is also a trend towards permissiveness in Sweden and Denmark — the standard-bearers of the sexual revolution.

Norwegians are prudish about pornography and homosexuality but share a relaxed view of pre-marital live-in arrangements.

Foreign visitors are perhaps most struck by the



contrast between Denmark's continental drinking habits and the temperance-inspired policies in Sweden and Norway.

The inflight magazine of Scandinavian Airlines (SAS), the airline of Sweden, Denmark and Norway, said the attitude of cabin crews illus-

trated the difference.

On a morning flight, a Danish cabin crew will serve a bitter liqueur with the breakfast, a Swedish crew will provide the drink only if a passenger asks for it, while a Norwegian crew might try to talk the passenger out of drinking so early.

In Japan, sharing a home but nothing else

By Yuri Kageyama
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Two electric rice cookers sit side-by-side in the kitchen, symbols of how far apart Takashi Uehara and his wife Ritsuko have grown in 17 years of marriage.

They live more as grudging roommates than husband and wife. They do their cooking, cleaning and laundry separately. They have not had sex in more than two years.

"Some people have told us our relationship is pathetic," Mr. Uehara said. "They can't understand why we're still together."

Even though they exchange barely more than perfunctory greetings on most days, Mr. Uehara said he did not think he could bear living alone.

Instead of a divorce, the

Ueharas chose a living arrangement common in Japan, where loveless marriages often end in stalemate rather than separation.

As Japanese women become better-educated and are exposed to Western ideas of equality, they marry later, have fewer children and challenge traditional marital roles.

Mr. Uehara said, for example, that the living arrangement he and his wife had was "a result of our choice to try to confront our equality."

Because family and social structures lag behind the trends, more and more couples opt for "in-house" separations that keep up the appearance of marriage long after the emotional bonds have dissolved.

Such "katei-nai rikon" — or, "in-family divorces" —

may be a major faction in keeping Japan's divorce rate at the consistent, low figure of about 1.3 per 1,000 couples, or 160,000 divorces. The U.S. ratio in 1990 was 4.7 per 1,000, or 1.2 million divorces.

No official figures are available for "in-family divorces," but they are common.

In some cases, the husband uses a job in a distant city as a pretext for unofficial separation. Other couples, like the Ueharas, continue living together.

Such practices reflect the discrimination Japanese women face in a society where old customs die slowly and equal employment laws are not enforced.

In Japan and many other Asian countries, husbands

and wives have tended to live quite separate lives, unlike men and women in the couple-oriented United States.

Many Japanese companies still expect male employees to put their careers above family life.

Japanese men often describe an ideal marriage as one in which the husband and wife treat each other like air. Essential for survival, but taken for granted. Because of this, many Japanese women find themselves living with virtual strangers.

"Married women are quite dissatisfied," said Satomi Nakajima, 54, a member of a city council near Tokyo. "They want their husbands to share their interests and the domestic chores."

Some women secretly welcome the opportunity to live

apart when employers transfer husbands to distant cities or abroad, leaving the families behind so the children's schooling will not be disrupted.

The Labour Ministry estimates this frequent practice has separated more than 200,000 couples.

Married Japanese men have traditionally sought romance and sexual satisfaction outside marriage, keeping mistresses if they could afford it.

After generations of accepting that, many women now have affairs of their own, said Chizuko Ueno, a sociologist and feminist. They stay married in order to benefit from the husband's earning power.

Divorce remains a social stigma in Japan, for families as well as the couple. Unless

both parties consent, divorce proceedings are protracted and difficult. Women have a hard time getting alimony and child-support payments.

A woman's financial dependence on her husband is the most persuasive argument for continuing an unhappy marriage.

"Many women can't get divorced simply because they can't support their families," said Mizuho Fukushima, a lawyer.

Ritsuko Uehara, a potter who works at home, had threatened to seek a divorce but agreed to stay with her husband to save on rent and other living costs.

"I couldn't understand what it was that she wanted," Mr. Uehara said. "She kept telling me I only thought about myself and that I talked down to her."

Awakening the taste-buds, an original educational initiative

By Aurore Thierry

PARIS — Plates and cups stand on the tables. About twenty children, half paying attention and half laughing, sit on chairs. This afternoon, it is "Lili's lesson."

Little Paul, Marie the red-head and gossipy Catherine, Arthur, José and their pals would not miss Lili's lesson for anything in the world, for "Lili", as she is known, is in charge of lessons that are quite different from all the others. She is one of the presenters of the "awakening the taste-buds campaign", which has been held in schools since 1990, on Culture Minister Jack Lang's in-

itiative.

It is not a gimmick. This campaign has been organised by the very serious National Council of Culinary Arts, with the approval of the Ministry of Education. The idea is to offer pupils aged 9 to 11, whose teachers agree, a series of ten one-and-a-half-hour sessions in which the children are taught to recognise different tastes, to compose balanced meals and to develop a critical attitude towards food.

Why have such "taste-awakening classes"? Was it simply an amusing initiative which could but germinate in the heads of the incorrigible

gastromes that the French are known to be? The answer is far more serious. "The children's taste-buds had to be awakened before they fell fast asleep in the comforting mush of ice-cream, the sweet tickling of sodas and the squishy tastelessness of hamburgers", Jacques Puisais, chairman of the French Institute of Taste and promoter of the operation, insists.

"If we do not want children to become 'handicapped in taste', they have to be given every opportunity to choose their gustative pleasures by having them appreciate the whole rainbow of flavours and sensations," this scientist and internationally reputed

wine expert is quick to add. Smelling, looking, touching and tasting food does not simply educate children's palates. It also appeals to their intuition, enhances their sensitivity, stimulates their imagination, sharpens their critical sense, and incites them to reflect and to compare, with the help of ingredients.

Hence the use of the method devised by Jacques Puisais and put into practice by the presenters from the French Institute of Taste who go from school to school and even train primary school teachers who ask for it.

The first session reminds the children of the role of the five senses. The second one shows the four main tastes: Sweet, salty, sour and bitter. The third is devoted to planning a meal which will be prepared with the help of the presenter and makes it possible to show the relationships between flavours. The fourth deals with the world of smells (which enables the children to discover that salt has no smell...unlike chocolate). The fifth is based on vision, the sixth on touch (soft, hard, smooth, springy, stringy, etc.), the seventh to "aggressions" (burning, spicy) and sounds. The eighth takes the children on a voyage of discovery of regional French cooking and foodstuffs. The ninth is a revision of the previous lessons and the tenth and last is an outing to a restaurant seasoned with little recognition exercises.

The practical and educa-



Awakening the taste buds is an art in itself

tional repercussions of this crafty awakening is that children swallow the notions of history and geography painlessly (the climates, the relief and their relations with agriculture products). They enrich their vocabulary (all the shades of red, from vermilion to carnation pink, including, cherry, ruby, carmine or tomato colour). They greedily get through literature (ah, Mr. Proust's madeleine cakes and the description of the former Paris wholesale market of Les Halles in Emile Zola's *Le Ventre De Paris*).

They also juggle with natural sciences and physiology, with the way the nervous system works, vision, smell and hearing, and learn that primary tastes are felt on the tongue with sweet things on the tip of the tongue, salty and sour ones at the sides and bitter ones at the back.

The results are conclusive. Pupils who have followed this series of lessons are able to express themselves more accurately than the others. They can judge smells better and are conscious consumers. To the great surprise of their parents, they enjoy foods that they hated before and become interested in the way meals are prepared which they no longer wolf down with their eyes glued to the telly.

Already in 1990, 6,000 pupils benefited from these "taste-awakening workshops". In the 1990-1992 school year, more than 10,000 school-children educated their taste-buds at the school of flavours, which is also a school of sharing, of conviviality, and of the discovery and respect of differences. In short, a kind of tolerance — L'Actualité En France.

Diary

The Diary, in the continued absence of its regular writer Nermeen Murad, is, in a sense, turning more inwards. It is increasingly concentrating on problems faced and posed by the Jordan Times, for instance, instead of giving headlines to strange politicians and public figures in faraway places. More than at any time before, the Diary is focusing on the press and media — the motto being credibility starts at (or close to) home. Let us show you what we mean:

FIRST, BAN ON JOURNALIST: Jordan Times staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand, who doubles as chief sub-editor (the same as front-page editor), was invited by the Ministry of Information to attend the celebrations at Marka on Sunday marking the 40th anniversary of the His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers. But, as things turned out, someone bungled somewhere and Vivekanand was ordered out of a bus carrying journalists to the celebrations and barred from attending the event on "security grounds." It remained a mystery by Wednesday evening why Vivekanand, an Indian national who has been working for the Jordan Times since 1980 and has attended dozens of similar events and had interviews with the King as well as His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, was singled out for such a treatment. The newspaper has naturally protested to the Royal Palace and we are still waiting to hear the reasons behind the ban on our colleague. But that is only one side of the affair. The other side is the fact that despite the availability of hundreds of photographs of the celebrations, the only photo that appeared on the front page of the Jordan Times on the second day was that of the King and the Crown Prince along with Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Now. Vivekanand argues that the humiliation he suffered at the hands of the security forces at Marka had nothing to do with his decision to use only one picture. He says he was so much short of space in the paper that he had no choice but to "go for the best I had, and that was the one which appeared." A close look at the structure of the paper and the nature of the stuff he had to handle that particular day supports his argument. Never mind the option that was available to him to add two more pages to accommodate more of the beautiful photos that came out of the celebrations. That option was not viable, since it would have delayed printing of the newspaper for another successive night. Only the night before, distribution of the Jordan Times was greatly hindered due to the special supplement that we produced on the occasion of the King's anniversary, evoking in the process loud protests from our readers and the management. One thing remains to be said. It was truly a pity that the ban on Vivekanand was enforced by one branch of the same apparatus organising the celebrations, which, needless to say, were great and impressive and truly reflective of the Kingdom's achievements and progress under the leadership of King Hussein. It is a sorry state of affairs when everyone tries very hard to make a success of something, only to have someone else, somewhere down the line, screw up and cast a shadow on an occasion which, for all practical and technical purposes, was truly a national occasion of joy and jubilation.

☆☆

SECOND, PRESSURE FROM THE INSIDE: While we don't yet know whether the ban on Vivekanand had anything to do with "freedom of expression," the idea of the freedom to express oneself was indeed a key theme in a letter that we received from Mr. Mahmoud M. Al Rasheed, complaining about an advertisement by a restaurant discoloured offering free beer as part of a promotion effort. In that letter, the writer said the following: It is a well known fact that advertising represents a major source of revenue for any newspaper. The freedom of expression under the law guarantees the right to advertise is another well known fact. But to advertise that a specific place in Amman is extending an open invitation to the general public to come and drink all the beer they can, for free and for a long period of six hours every Monday night, is an ad that deserves more than a moment to stop and think on behalf of all of us. Seductive ads like this one have serious consequences for the entire society and should be stopped for the following reasons: (1) It will encourage more young men and women to drink more alcoholic beverages, especially those who cannot afford to drink under the normal circumstances, where drinking should cost them money. (2) Drinking late at night will have other social costs and financial costs to society, such as broken homes, automobile accidents, etc., and certainly more alcoholics. Such an extra waste is something we do not need, or do we? (3) Even in the "civilised" Western countries, ads like this one are prohibited. And recently, even half price sales of alcohol during the so called "happy hour" have been stopped, due to the rising number of traffic accidents and deaths. Based on all that and on my strong belief that the Jordan Times is a socially responsible newspaper which does not allow itself to be blinded by mere financial gains from ads like this, I feel strongly encouraged to write you this note, which I hope you will be able to publish. Thank you. Needless to say that the powerful message that Mr. Al Rasheed included in his letter has reached home. The Jordan Times does not make much money from advertisements anyway. And we can do away with a few extra beers.

☆☆

JUST A FILLER: While we are on the subject of alcohol and advertising, we have to mention the story of the Jordan Cigarette and Tobacco Company, which used the occasion of Sunday's celebrations at Marka to gain some publicity for itself, something it has been denied in the media by law. The company's tableaux vehicle was indeed remarkable, I only because of the lavish advertisements for its various brands of cigarettes. A rather small price to pay, we think particularly that millions of Jordanians were watching the celebrations on live television.

☆☆

BACK TO BUSINESS OF NEWSPRINT: The Jordan Times fare, badly again with its readers last week, but this time it was because of shortage in newsprint. Uncertainty over the availability of newsprint in the wake of recent U.S. Navy interception of a vessel carrying newsprint to Aqaba had led all Jordanian newspapers to sound the alarm bells. But as would be expected from a small newspaper like ours, we had to carry the dirty end of the stick. Leftover newsprint from the Al Ra'i press was used to make the Jordan Times. As a result the newspaper, for nearly 10 days appeared with uneven cuts depriving readers of reading material that they otherwise would have enjoyed or found useful. The good news is that a ship carrying newsprint has just arrived at Aqaba, and we hope that the problem of paper and printing is solved once and for all.

The Italian Embassy in Jordan
and
the Italian Institute for External Commerce
invite all Jordanian specialised companies to attend the
"Technological Symposium on Medical Equipment"
which will be held on May 15th and 16th, 1993
at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Amman
starting 10:00 a.m.

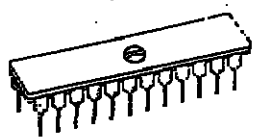
The Italian companies coming from Italy will present themselves and their products.

For further information, please call the Second Secretary of the Italian Embassy in Amman, Dr. Raffaele de Benedictis (Ph. 638185, Fax 659730, P.O.Box 9800) or Dr. Hani H. Shaheen (MBF Representative, Ph. and Fax 683028, P.O.Box 926775, Amman)

Ready-made fashion

By Jean-Claude Elias

chip talk



Buying a powerful personal computer (PC) is not enough. One must have programmes, specific to each task that one might need to do, in order to actually make any good use of the PC. Even children know that nowadays. Unless, of course, the reason for getting the computer is purely technical and the user intends to study electronics or programming languages.

Whether you intend to type letters or reports, make calculations, play computer games, do your accounts or run computer aided design, you need programmes (software). For personal use and small to medium sized organisations, the most obvious and feasible solution is in the available ready-made software, sometimes called packages.

The advantages of the packages are many. They are immediately available and there is therefore no need to wait for very long development and programming. Ready-made software, when it comes from a reputable software house, also benefits from the sound and extensive experience of its developers. The analysis of the subject to be programmed is done on a very large scale, covering tens or hundreds of users, instead of just one. Consequently there is very little chance that important points or features be overlooked. Moreover, the quality, the user-friendliness, the flexibility and the power of ready-made programmes, from known companies, is usually high above the work of an isolated person be it a layman or a specialist.

The cost of ready-made software, being spread over a large number of users is much less than a tailor-made work, designed for just one client. Leading software developers like Microsoft, Lotus, Aldus and Borland, to name only a few, regularly release updates — additions and improvements — to their software, available to their registered customers (those who buy original copies) for a small fraction of the initial price. Private programmers cannot afford to do that.

Thirteen years after the introduction of the PC, there is now hardly any conceivable subject that could be programmed and that has not been done yet. Some simple, but useful, software have even fallen into the category called "shareware" and are distributed free-of-charge, for the price of the empty diskettes and mailing charges.

If the advantages of the packages are incomparably

superior to those of the custom-made programmes, then how come some PC users still do programming?

There are still rare cases when the user has very specific needs that are not covered by existing packages. It could also be that the available ready-made software satisfies the needs of the users only partially. Most people will still prefer ready-made software if it fulfils their needs up to 90 per cent for instance. There are other cases where the user wants full control of its software and its future development, for security reasons. He doesn't want any other party to have exactly the same programmes and be able to access or use his data.

In the case of personal computing, some people would learn and start programming just for the sake of the art of programming itself. Understanding programming is a fascinating work and it is not surprising that PC users, more particularly the young, are attracted to this technique. Modern programming languages like FoxBase, Clipper, Visual Basic and C are more powerful, easier to use, much faster to implement and feature more facilities than the older Cobol and Standard Basic for instance.

Educators have discovered that programming tremendously develops the reasoning, the logical thinking, the memory and the organisational and rational thinking of those who practice it. Talented analysts and programmers are, and will still be, much in demand by software giants like Microsoft. In the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Singapore, Taiwan and more particularly in the United States, they are among the most highly paid professionals.

The land of knowledge

By E. Yahgi

Fadi was a typical little boy who often wondered: "What happens to the sun when it goes down? Where is the end of the rainbow? Why do flowers have moisture on them in the morning? Why do birds sing? Why is one side of the moon always dark?" And, "is there really a man who lives there?"

Before he went to school, he was a very curious child as well as an active one and he either always asked anybody who would listen a thousand questions or else jumped off high places, climbed trees or fought imaginary enemies with his wooden sword. But one day, everything in his life changed. Fadi had to begin his first day at school.

The difference between school and home appeared like a trip to another country and poor Fadi experienced cultural shock. He had to sit still and he had to keep quiet, two very impossible tasks for any small boy. He couldn't ask questions and when he did, his teacher usually told him to "shut up!"

When he didn't know how to solve a problem or write correctly, he was ordered: "Put out your hand!" and presented with sharp and painful blows with a thick rod which wounded not only his body but his pride too. School became a place to be hated and the keeper of the key of knowledge, the instructor, was the warden of Fadi's prison cell. There was no love of learning that the teacher tried to impart to his students and it wasn't long before the young boy cried not to go to school.

"Please, mommy, don't make me go to school!" the child would beg. "I hate it so. Can't I stay home with you? I'll be good!"

She looked amused at his outbreak but only replied: "Of course not child. You must go so that you can one day be someone important."

"I don't want to be important. I just want to be happy!" His protests got him nowhere and he endured the torture of routine memorisation of dull and boring subjects, the crushing of his curiosity and a fear of being hit or scolded if he made mistakes. And somewhere along the way a sad phenomena began to take place. Fadi stopped thinking for himself and only tried to concentrate on the academic tasks before him. More than one time his teacher retorted: "Only very stupid boys keep asking questions. I have explained the material once and that's enough. If you didn't understand the first time, that's your tough luck!"

By and by, the once curious Fadi grew up into an unoriginal, dull, complicated young man. How many times

had he been hit for his mistakes in school? How many times had he been insulted in front of the whole class for being slow to learn? On how many occasions had he been made to feel that he was an idiot and not a person with feelings and pride? At last he got a job in a factory and performed his work with machine-like performance, never looking beyond his immediate task at hand or thinking of his future. And when faced with a dilemma, Fadi didn't know what to do. He could merely see straight ahead of himself and knew no way for formulating alternatives.

But who is responsible for the death of Fadi's curiosity? The answer is, his society. Weak students should not be intimidated by their instructors but encouraged by positive methods in order to awaken a desire for learning which is inherent in most small and normal children. Fadi did not lack intelligence, he lacked opportunity. A love for knowledge can only be instilled by teachers and professors who they themselves are not only keen to impart their knowledge but love the subject they teach.

Constant demand for rote recitations inhibits the imagination and does not provide a stimulus for originality, free thinking or individualism. When any child is abused by the educational power of authority, then his natural desire for learning is forever destroyed. All teachers whatever level they instruct, must be models of behaviour to their students and should act in good conscience and faith as well as bear the responsibility of the teaching of academic subjects and how students should interact with each other and respect the rights of all individuals. Unfortunately, problems are not abated at the university level but increased in one form or another.

There is a magical land of knowledge out there. We must offer the means of transportation to it to our youth for they are the future of our country. Any advanced nation is built upon a superior system of education. We are so adept at imitating Western food, clothing and consumer commodities but we have so failed to imitate the really important values that are essential to the existence of a better Jordan, one that dwells not only in the past of ancient glories but also in the present and future of great potentials. It is our duty to provide our children with the best education possible and instill in them a love for learning so that young curious children like Fadi will not grow up into monotonous, boring robots without their own minds to think for themselves. As His Majesty King Hussein has so eloquently stated, Jordan's greatest natural resource lies in its people. It is now up to us to make the most of ourselves.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 6

8:30 Coach
wedding celebration party
held at Christine's father's
house.

10 Quantum Leap

11:00 News In English

12:20 Movie Of The Week

emphasis
starring: Richard Brooks

the film revolves around the
American south in 1957 when
racial segregation was at its
height. Two white men and a
black woman kidnap a young
black boy.

Friday, May 7

11:00 Air

12:00 Night Back

13:00 Comedy discovers that Sam is a
fake and he tries to stop him.

14:00 E.N.G.

15:00 Delicious Intent

16:00 News In English

17:20 Wagner

Saturday, May 8

8:30 Special Programme

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Fatal
Friendship

Starring: Kevin Dobson,
Gerald McRaney, Kate Mal-
grew and Patti Yasutake

Hank and Michael have been
life-long friends. Their fami-
lies vacation together and
their children of similar ages
are close friends. Michael be-
gins to be aware of secrets
about Hank when he sees
Hank speaking fluent
Chinese to a group of
businessmen. When Hank
lies to Michael about being
out of town on business,
Michael becomes slightly
suspicious. However, nothing
prepares him for what he
comes to discover about the
deadly business his best
friend has become involved
in. When the cities Hank
actually visits report "hit-
style" murders, Michael's
suspicions grow along with
Hank's awareness of his
friend's mistrust. The intri-
gue finally reaches a deadly
climax.

Sunday, May 9

8:30 Special Programme

9:10 The Good Guys

Old School Ties

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Series — Vol-
taire

This episode focuses on the
last days of Voltaire.

Monday, May 10

8:30 Special Programme

9:10 Documentary — Dino-
saur

Tale Of A Bone

Today dinosaur hunters still
marvel at the size of the
bones.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Street Justice

Self Defense

Malloy asks her friends to
protect Liza from her hus-
band.

Tuesday, May 11

8:30 Special Programme

9:10 Forever Green

Jack and Harriett are
offered a partnership in a
lumber company with old
friends Mike and Mary. But
Jack and Harriett decide
against it.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Mis-
sion Of The Shark

Starring: Stacy Keach

The story of the Indianapolis,
the navy ship that carried the
components of the A-bomb to
Guam during World War
II, and was sunk on its way
back.

Wednesday, May 12

8:30 Special Programme

9:15 UEFA Cup Final
From Dortmund.
Borussia Dortmund vs Torino

10:00 News In English

10:20 Cont. Of The Football
Cup Final.

11:00 The Gravy Train

Scientists agree animals think, but wonder about process

By Loran Neergaard

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A chimpan-
zee talks with humans using
symbols. Squirrels outfox a
"n-wielding homeowner"
of hearing them in his
nic. Elephants pause as if in
turning when they stumble
on pachyderm bones in the
d.

Yes, many experts say,
animals do think. The ques-
ion is: What goes on in their
minds?

"Is it instinct or do they
think like us, in steps? That's
the whole trouble, you see,
I don't know where instinct
ends," said David Pears, an
Oxford philosopher. "If you
see a red light, you stop. You
don't say to yourself, 'OK,
I mean stop.'"

"We have to define the
level of thinking. Just be-
cause a species thinks dif-
ferently from us doesn't
mean it's less cognitive."

For centuries, scientists
followed the lead of philo-
sopher Rene Descartes, who

said most animals had little
self-awareness, much less
cognitive ability.

But recent experiments
with animals such as Kanzi, a
chimpanzee that communicates
through symbols on a compu-
ter, have convinced many sci-
entists animals can think.

But beyond that, is their
thinking limited to imitating
others? Or do they work out
problems? What do they
think about? Can they lie?

Don't expect a consensus
from the animal intelligence
experts who gathered in
Atlanta recently.

After all, said Harvard
neurobiologist Terrence
Deacon, doctors are only
now learning how the human
brain works. Because we can-
not communicate with anim-
als effectively, learning
what's in their minds will be
even more difficult.

"There's a different cog-
nitive style — it's not just that
we're smarter," he said.

Researchers may never
prove whether animals lie,
said Georgia Tech's Jack

Martin, who fell short in an
experiment in which one
monkey would tell a rival the
coast was clear when a stuff-
ed python was placed near
them.

It couldn't be determined if
the monkey was lying or
knew the snake wasn't real.
Scientists may also mistake
routine reactions or imitation
for advanced thought, Mr.
Deacon warned.

But chimpanzees at Geor-
gia State University's Lan-
guage Research Centre com-
municate using a computer
that takes away that guess-
work, said researcher Sue
Savage-Rumbaugh.

Kanzi types on a keyboard
with symbols. The order of
the symbols resemble sent-
ences. And he types original
sentences — eliminating criti-
cism that he's just copying
people, Ms. Savage-Rum-
baugh said.

"He types 'ball-group
room,' something I have nev-
er said to him," she said.
"Why else would he say that
unless he wants a ball he

knows is in the group room
instead of the ball in front of
him?"

In the wild may be the best
place to prove animals think
on their own rather than just
under human influence, con-
tends Pears.

Elephants obviously ponder
something when they
pause and make mournful
sounds over the remains of
fellow pachyderms, he said.

But his favourite example
is the squirrels who were
eating their way through his
attic. Every day at dawn they
left through a hole in the
roof. One day he was waiting
with a gun and shot the first
one. The rest ran back inside.

"I said this was too easy —
I'd just shoot one each morn-
ing and they'd all be dead,"
he recalled. "The next morn-
ing the whole population left
one hour before sunrise."

"Did they think the cover
of darkness would save
them? Who knows, but they
got the right answer after
only one shot."

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BONERS

- The future of "I give" is "you take."
- No is the adverb of negotiation.
- An interjection is a sudden explosion of mind.
- Gender is the destruction of sex.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TANTALISING FACTS

- A swarm of fifty thousand bees weighs about 10 pounds.
- More than 150 different flavours of ice-cream are now manufactured.
- A camel can drink twenty-five gallons in half an hour.
- Whales cannot breathe under water. They have lungs instead of gills.
- A cup filled to the brim with coffee will not overflow if several teaspoonfuls of sugar are added slowly.
- The longest fingernails ever recorded measured 23 3/4 inches.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- I'd like to go shopping. *Ayez arooh ashtri hajat.*
- Can I see that? *Mumkin ashooof haada/haadi?*
- I prefer this one. *Ana offaddel haada.*
- How much is it? *Kam yeswa/besswa?*
- That's very expensive. *Hadda ghali jiddan/haadi ghalla jiddan.*
- Do you have anything cheaper? *Indak ayy hajaj arkhas?*
- You owe me five dinars. *Bidee minnek khamis danancer.*
- Where is the nearest bakery? *Wen aqrah makhbuz?*
- ★ bank *bank/masraf*
- ★ bookshop *maktaba*
- ★ butchery *malhama*
- ★ pharmacy *saydaliya*
- ★ hospital *mustashfa*
- ★ confectioner *halawani*
- ★ tailor *khayyat*
- ★ greengrocer *khodari*
- ★ jeweller *jawahiri*
- ★ laundry *maghsala/mashagha*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TIME FOR FUN

HUSBAND in a hurry: "Have you seen my golfing socks anywhere?"

WIFE: "Golfing socks? What are they?"

HUSBAND: "Why, surely you know? Coarse, with eighteen holes in them!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Two women were discussing a recent wedding which one had attended.

"Who gave the bride away?" asked the other women.

"Her little brother," replied the first. "He stood up at the back of the church and cried, 'Hurrah! Fanny, you've got him at last.'"

Pretty nurse to Doctor: "Every time I take this patient's pulse, it seems to beat faster. What shall I do?"

Doctor: "Blindfold him!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What is a young salmon called?
2. What is a rookery?
3. What is a kipper?
4. What is the cuckoo's cry?
5. What lesson did a king learn from a spider?
6. What is (a) an ewe (b) a ram?
7. Is "bosom" the same as "besom"?
8. What is a Davy lamp?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

EMBEZZLE: A dream which involves embezzlement by yourself or others suggests that you have some knotty problems and/or secret fear of such a complex nature that you would be wise to seek professional help as soon as possible.

KILLING: If you dream of killing someone, whether intentionally or by accident, it signifies a period of severe emotional stress during which you must make a heroic effort to control your temper. To dream of being a witness to a killing portends a change which will not be entirely to your liking. A dream of seeing others kill insects or animals prophesies help from friendly sources, but to dream of killing them yourself predicts that you will overcome your obstacles through your own efforts.

ASSAULT: You will be given some information which will be of great value to you if you were assaulted in your dream; if others were assaulted, you may have to defend an attack on your character.

CHEAT: A dream of contrary. If you dream of being cheated, you can expect a stroke of luck; however, if you were the cheater, you can expect to be cheated.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

(A) The 300-metre high Eiffel Tower in Paris is made of 8,000,000 kilograms of steel. I have decided to order a model of this tower, one weighing a kilogramme. How high will it be? Will it be bigger or smaller than a drinking glass?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

(B) The words required to answer the clues below all have FISH as a termination. It should not take readers long to solve them all.

EXAMPLE:

The stupid FISH becomes OAFISH

Now, do the same:

1. The mischievous
2. The egoist's
3. The small
4. The hungry
5. The dissipated

FISH
FISH
FISH
FISH
FISH



Bob Hope — still 'a kid' at 90

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Bob Hope strolls down the long hall of his Toluca Lake mansion with a hint of the dancer's gait he used on thousands of stages dating back to Vaudeville.

He shows some signs of his nearly 90 years now, but he remains the slick wisecracker who has conquered every entertainment medium.

He enters his "playroom," sunny, elegantly furnished

quarters with a few mementos, including a Norman Rockwell portrait of the comedian, his eyes mischievous, lips pursed as if ready for a timely quip.

Hope's face today seems little changed. The skin is smooth and tanned from daily golf, the voice is strong and clear, the profile suggestive of the slopes at Aspen.

Hope turns 90 on May 29, and he'll celebrate the way he likes best — with a television special. This one will be a whopper, three hours on

NBC on May 14 with a multitude of stars and ex-presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and George Bush, as well as Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton. Hope has entertained every White House occupant from Franklin D. Roosevelt on.

Did he ever meet a president he didn't like?

"I sure didn't. I liked them all. And if I didn't like them, I made believe I liked them. Because they're in a pretty good spot, you know."

Hope recalls meeting Mr. Clinton in Little Rock a few years ago. "He was governor then, and he took me to his house and introduced me to Hillary. That night when I was doing the show, he got up and gave a speech. So he was rehearsing even then."

Hope's generally good health could be attributed to exercise: Nightly walks, golf every day at the nearby Toluca Lake Course ("Golf keeps you young — if you win"). Genetics helps — his English grandfather lived to be 100.

One health problem has been Hope's eyes. "I've got a hemorrhage in the right eye now, and I used to have one in the left eye," he says. "I'm a walking hemorrhage."

"He takes his ailments beautifully," reports Dolores Reade Hope, his wife for 59 years. "He is a model of acceptance. The toughest thing for him to accept is the eye problem. He doesn't seem to understand it. Otherwise he's like a prizefighter (which he briefly was). He rolls with the punches."

The years have also eroded his hearing. Interviewers are well advised to shout.

"Dr. House says Bob is his only failure," says Dolores, referring to Dr. Howard House of the famed House Ear Clinic in Los Angeles. "Bob has a brand-new, \$1,200 hearing device in his drawer but he refuses to wear it."

She observes that her husband "seems to be automatically cutting down on his schedule, taking on less commitments." Yet he still undergoes travels that would be unthinkable for most 90-

year-olds.

Hope's history is part of the American legend: His birth as Leslie Townes Hope in Eltham, England, on May 29, 1903. The family's emigration to Cleveland, Ohio, when Bob was 4. Winning a Charlie Chaplin look-alike contest at 10. His professional debut in a Fatty Arbuckle Revue.

Hope got into Vaudeville in a dancing act with a partner, George Byrne. They added a few comedy bits, and soon Hope realized he earned more applause with his jokes than his singing. He launched his single act and proved so successful that he was booked for a 1927 Broadway show, Sidewalks Of New York. The show folded. Back to Vaudeville.

Hope returned to Broadway for Ballyhoo Of 1932 and followed with the hit Roberta. In the 1936 Ziegfeld Follies, he sang, I Can't Get Started to Eve Arden. Red, Hot And Blue, with Jimmy Durante and Ethel Merman, produced another hit song, Cole Porter's It's De-Lovely.

The Broadway years ended when Paramount brought him to Hollywood for The Big Broadcast Of 1938, which starred W.C. Fields. The movie provided his theme song, Thanks For The Memory, sung with Shirley Ross.

Hope had appeared on radio since 1932, but he had never scored a hit until The Peppercorn Show in 1938. "I was No. 1 in radio for several years, and that helped the pictures," he observes.

"Hope's movie career soared after Paramount teamed him in 1940 with Bing

Crosby and Dorothy Lamour in Road To Singapore.

He explained that Crosby organized a show every Friday night during the season at the Del Mar Racetrack, which he and Pat O'Brien founded in the mid-1930s.

"Bing and I had worked together in New York at the Old Capitol Theatre," Hope recalls. "We did four shows a day, and we wanted to change every day, so we added new things. It was a helluva act. We did this show at Del Mar, and a producer went back to Paramount the next day and said, 'we gotta put these guys together. They work great.' He didn't know we had rehearsed it for weeks and weeks."

"We ended up doing seven 'road' pictures."

In March of 1941, Hope took his radio show to March Field, California. The response from the servicemen was so overwhelming that he continued broadcasting almost exclusively from military bases until June 1948. His first long trip was to Alaska in 1942. The next year his troupe covered England, Africa, Sicily and Iceland. In 1944, he toured the South Pacific from Eniwetok to New Guinea. In 1945 he followed the victorious troops through France and Germany.

His travels continued over the years, to Korea, Berlin, Beirut, Vietnam and the Gulf, and every other trouble spot where Americans were stationed. Only during the Vietnam War did his reputation suffer. He supported the American troops he had entertained, arousing vitriolic



Bob Hope in earlier days

attacks from anti-war activists.

The criticism stung and confounded Hope, who had never encountered negative publicity. "I've seen too many wars to say that war is beautiful," he says. "I've been in burn wards, and I've smelled burned flesh. I've walked through hospital wards where I had to grab the bed to keep my balance."

"I appreciate the Americans who have laid down

their lives for our country. I got hooked on that thing, and if that stops me from getting awards, I'll have to live with it."

The inevitable question to a man at 90: Will he ever stop performing?

"I'm a kid," he jokes. "No, I won't quit as long as I feel good. I enjoy working and doing something. Playing to an audience gives you something to work on, something to do. I like it."



The comedian is still an avid golfer

Painting, music thrive as political shackles loosened in Vietnam

By Denis D. Gray
The Associated Press

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam — For 12 years Nguyen Thanh pedaled a trishaw to feed his family and painted — in secret — on cheesecloth and flour sacks because he couldn't afford canvas. Communist authorities branded him an outcast.

Today, Thanh paints what he likes, owns a large villa and last year earned about \$100,000 from depictions of anguish and loss that have marked his life.

The 45-year-old Thanh and other Vietnamese painters, musicians and other artists

are thriving after decades of war and suppression by authoritarian regimes. More are making their way into the world's art galleries and onto its stages.

This comes in the wake of the ruling Communist Party's decision in late 1986 to embark on economic reforms and some general liberalization.

Artistic freedom remains limited: Novelists or playwrights would still land in serious trouble if, for example, they advocated the ouster of communism in their works.

But in arts like music and painting, where political

opinions are not directly stated, a new vigor is evident. Traditionally strong in these arts, the Vietnamese are outshining even some of the more prosperous, politically open Asian nations.

Competition is stiff to enter the country's four fine arts schools, two music conservatories and four symphony orchestras. Art galleries are mushrooming.

Viet Hai, one of Hanoi's top painters, says that because Vietnam is opening up, more painters can live off their work by selling to the increasing number of foreign businessmen, tourists and diplomats.

Hai is one of 15 Vietnamese painters represented in Hong Kong by Plum Blossom, an art dealership which staged a major exhibit of their works in the crown colony in 1991 and smaller ones since. Paintings sold for several hundred dollars two years ago now command several thousand.

"We've in many created a new industry in Vietnam," said Plum Blossom's Stephen McGuinness. "They were painting before, but there wasn't much of an audience."

"Doi Moi," as Vietnam calls its reform effort, has meant more tours and scholarships in the West and a

broad range of musical exchanges, said Nguyen Trong Bang, director of Hanoi's National conservatory of music.

Vietnamese are now teaching music in Singapore, and pianist Dang Thi Son, the first Asian winner of the Chopin Competition in Warsaw, Poland, is permitted to live in Canada.

The negative side to the reforms has been the removal of most state subsidies to the conservatories. Students must buy their own instruments, with the price of a standard violin some \$300, roughly twice the average annual per capita income.

"If our symphony orchestra had good instruments, oh, it could play so much better," said Bang.

While Vietnam's painters and musicians probably were not as constrained as those in some other Communist societies, the pressure to conform to Socialist ideals was sometimes intense.

"Some painted what the state told them to, others only from their own inspiration. They were genuine artists and are today the respected," said Tran Luu Hau, another leading Hanoi painter.

In southern Vietnam, some joined the "boat people" ex-

odus after the 1975 Communist victory. Those who stayed were sent to "reeducation camps."

Even though he was jailed by the anti-Communist South Vietnamese government for his anti-war views, Tran still had a falling out with the victors who ordered him to stop painting. To support his wife and six children he became a trishaw driver.

"I've had a dark life," he said when asked to explain the tortured paintings hanging in Ho Chi Minh City's Art Gallery Particular.

Moments later, a British stockbroker from Hong Kong came in to buy a Hanoi

urban scene by Bui Xuan Phai for \$1,900.

"There's something unique about Vietnamese painting, a blend of East and West you don't find elsewhere. And it's still affordable," he commented.

For Phai, that sale would have been a great windfall. Regarded as the father of modern Vietnamese painting, he died five years ago in Hanoi. Hai, one of his students, said he never gave in to the authorities, painting only from his heart.

He recalled Phai giving away many of his paintings, or exchanging them for a kilogramme of coffee.

Tuvans find new harmony in revival of traditional singing

By David Ljunggren
Reuters

KYZYL, Russia — Singing two notes at once should be impossible. In practice, the effect is breathtaking.

Kaiger-Ool Khoralyg takes a deep breath, opens his mouth and produces a low, rasping drone.

The veins in his neck bulge. He pauses for breath and continues. By manipulating his larynx, lips and tongue he adds a high whistling harmony.

Khoralyg is a leading exponent of Hoomei (pronounced

Hermay), or throat-singing, practised for centuries by shepherds in Tuva, a mountainous region of Russia on the Mongolian border.

"Hoomei is about making contact with nature. The shepherd is alone and expresses his feelings towards nature, his sheep, his homeland," said Khoralyg, the 32-year-old son of shepherd parents.

The drone and harmony, echoing around the room, are the same as those sung centuries ago by nomadic Tuvans as they drove their sheep

across the plains and through forests.

"Hoomei is purely personal. Nature has such an overwhelming effect on these people that they have to sing," said Valentina Suzukei, a Tuvan folklorist and music expert who has studied Hoomei.

"It is a form of meditation, lifting yourself above the normal plane."

For many, Hoomei can only be explained in the context of Shamanism, a once widespread belief in the supernatural and spirit worlds.

The idea that virtually every object had its own spirit enhanced the Tuvans' respect for nature.

Some elderly Tuvans still walk with their hands behind their backs so as not to hurt the spirits around them by swinging their arms. Traditional Tuvan boots have turned-up toes to avoid harming the earth.

"The key is being close to nature the whole time, to be near the smell of the plains, the fresh air, the water," Suzukei said.

"You are always sur-

rounded by animal sounds: Deer, owls, bears, nightingales, sheep, horses, camels. Hoomei is the synthesis of these animal sounds by Tuvans and transformed into art."

For the nature-loving Tuvans, the arrival of settlers from other parts of Russia in the 19th century was a shock.

"Tuvans collected berries one by one, to ensure they would grow next year, while the Russians tore them off by the handful, destroying the bushes," Mr. Suzukei said.

"One old man shot a group of Russians who were cutting

down nut trees and then killed himself because he could not stand to see nature destroyed."

Hoomei flourished almost untouched in Tuva, for centuries part of China and then Mongolia, until Soviet times when it was discouraged as an unwanted remnant of the feudal past.

In 1957, in a brief cultural thaw after the death of dictator Josef Stalin, a Tuvan Hoomei group won first prize at a folk festival in Moscow, but not before suspicious organisers had examined the

singers' throats for hidden instruments.

Tuva, like many border regions in the former Soviet Union, was closed for decades until the advent of perestroika.

"No one suspected there was such a unique art here. Then there was a revival of interest in folklore. Europe thought Hoomei was suddenly increasingly in popularity, but it was one of the oldest forms of art," Suzukei said.

Khoralyg, who began singing when he was 12 after hearing his grandfather prac-

tising, frequently travels to the West, giving performances to packed halls in Europe and the United States.

Like many Hoomei singers he finds it hard to explain how he produces the two notes.

"There is great pressure involved — if you get it wrong, you can burst blood vessels in the lungs," said the stocky Khoralyg.

"Over the years, you can get more and more noise. But the sound must come from the soul, not the throat."

New Wagner production displeases Viennese

By Jonathan Lynn
Reuters

VIENNA — A new production of Richard Wagner's The Ring, which tries to bring out the humour in the saga, has won only jeers from Vienna's conservative opera audience.

Most singers and the city's beloved Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, which provides the instrumental music for the Vienna State Opera, went down well with the music-mad public.

But the production team has been roundly booed on all the first nights so far, and some critics have already declared the whole enterprise a failure, even before the premiere of the last opera in the cycle, The Twilight Of The Gods.

It would not be the first time.

The last attempt to mount a new production of The Ring in Vienna was abandoned in 1982 after only the first two operas — Rhinegold And The Valkyrie — had been shown.

Vienna, which prides itself on having one of the world's top opera houses, has thus been without a fresh production of one of the most important parts of the opera repertoire since Herbert Von Karajan directed the cycle in 1957 and 1958.

The new production, under the musical direction of German conductor Christoph Von Dohnanyi, was bound to be a major event in a city where even the tabloids devote many column inches to

opera, and radio and television broadcast reviews on prime time.

Dohnanyi's approach to the music is cold and analytical, moving away from the traditional emotional, stirring renderings which helped make Wagner Hitler's favourite composer.

The idea is to let the audience look at the work critically for themselves, designer Herbert Kapplmueller told Reuters.

"This is not the well-known heavy Wagner," he said. "If you play Wagner heavy, everyone just rolls over and gets silly."

But Wagner traditionalists had their day at the premiere of the new Siegfried on March 14 when Dohnanyi was sick. A young Italian conductor,

Antonio Pappano, was brought in at the last minute from the Theatre De La Monnaie in Brussels.

Whether it was Pappano's richer reading of the score, or, as some insiders say, because the Vienna Philharmonic simply played the way they wanted to, Pappano was a huge success and was instantly declared the new darling of the Vienna public.

The musical highpoint had already been reached in the previous opera, the Valkyrie, when Placido Domingo sang Siegmund, father of the cycle's hero Siegfried, for whom Wagner penned some of his loveliest music.

It was the star tenor's first attempt at Wagner, and Domingo, with his background in the Italian reper-

toire, brought out the lyricism of the tragic role to perfection.

The other main singers were also applauded.

Siegfried Jerusalem, a tall, blond and vigorous hero figure, looked every inch the part of Siegfried as well as singing it with magnificent energy.

But Hildegard Behrens, singing the role of the heroine Brunnhilde, incurred the wrath of Vienna's regular opera-goers who cheer their favourites and boo others with the fanaticism of football supporters.

Although her voice in Siegfried was so clear and powerful that it sounded, as it soared over the orchestra, as if it were being amplified, some people still jeered.

Most people agree the new production has been a musical success, reserving their condemnation for Kapplmueller and producer Adolf Dresen.

The designs dispense with Germanic warriors, using costumes which are timeless, contemporary or early 20th century.

Only in the Twilight Of The Gods, which will have its premiere on May 17, will Kapplmueller use historical costumes from the middle ages, as it is the first opera where real people rather than mythological figures such as gods, giants and gnomes appear.

Some critics berated the production for straying from Wagner's own precise instructions. For instance

Dresen and Kapplmueller have Brunnhilde sleeping on a slab of ice at the end of Valkyrie rather than the more traditional rock.

"Wagner wrote his stage instructions in line with the theatre practice of those days," said Kapplmueller.

"If you take Wagner literally, you would just be creating a theatre museum. And nowadays, in the arts, we have a quite different way of seeing things."

That didn't stop the Viennese press from denouncing the deliberately light-hearted Rhinegold as a Punch-and-Judy show.

But Kapplmueller and Dresen say they are not completely wrong, as Wagner was indeed influenced by the popular theatre and panto-

mime of his day.

In fact the production does freshen up Wagner.

The powerful acting and passionate singing of Jerusalem and Behrens bring out the eroticism of the last act of Siegfried, while Heinz Zednik, playing the malignant gnome Mime who has raised Siegfried from infancy, skips and jumps about the stage with high humour.

Jerusalem, unrecognisable in another role in Rhinegold, where he plays the cynical fire-god Loge, also raises a smile as he dances in time to the music.

The fact that as Loge, with his black jeans and jacket, round glasses and funny little hat, he resembles the real-life designer is purely coincidental, Kapplmueller says.

How Europeans provide universal health care

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Marijke Van Der Blas spent five months in a hospital having her last child, with hi-tech tests, fancy treatment, and finally surgery. She has no idea what it cost.

A psychotherapist of moderate income, she paid the same as if she were the president of Philips or a tulip vendor. Almost nothing.

"We don't worry about health costs in Holland," she said. "Insurance pays, whether it's public or private. I can't imagine what would have happened without it."

All Western European states have national health plans, and the Dutch system is among the best. People with incomes pay a part of the cost, but almost anyone can spend a lifetime dying at public expense.

Health care takes up nine per cent of Holland's gross

national product, five per cent less than in the United States, and the Dutch throw in long-term benefits for the aged. But there's a catch.

The Dutch plan, like others in Europe, works on the principle that each citizen is his brother's keeper, even if the brother is a deadbeat or an illegal immigrant from halfway around the world.

Treatment is determined by medical need and place in line, not ability to pay. A homeless drug addict may get urgent open heart surgery while a banker waits six months for a hernia operation.

"I don't think this would work in America," said Jan Van De Kastele, a Health Ministry specialist. "You can't introduce a system that has no basis in the normal attitude of the people."

The concept, which the

Dutch call solidarity goes back to the middle ages, when artisans in guilds paid into a pot for any member who fell on hard times.

Today, health is woven into a security blanket that cushions Europeans from unemployment, disability or other vicissitudes of fate and assures them a relatively comfortable retirement.

Overall, these benefits cost each worker one-fifth to one-third of every paycheck. Employers generally contribute as much, or more, in payroll taxes. On average, workers pay about seven per cent for the health part.

In Holland, doctors, officials and underwriters agree on rates. Courts seldom make lavish malpractice awards. Hospitals focus more on medical procedure than front-office paperwork.

As a result, the Dutch per capita annual health cost is under \$1,500. In France, where doctors are free to charge more and act independently, it is not much higher.

Not everyone likes it that way. Conservative parties in most countries, including Holland, want to inject more individual choice into health plans. But few dispute the idea of health for all.

Each country has a different approach.

German workers feed "sickness funds" with an average of 13 per cent of each paycheck. Employers pay half that percentage. Doctors' fees and other health costs are determined by how much money is available.

Marc Duriez, an economist who helps direct the French system, praised Germany's strict controls and Holland's coverage.

In France, the problem is not quality, but budgeting. Employees pay "le secu," social security, 6.8 per cent of gross wages. Employers add 12.8 per cent. For that, the state covers all costs for major diseases and 70 per cent for minor ones.

During 1992, the health programme was nearly \$400 million in the red, even with budget limits on public hospitals.

"The system works too well," said Dr. Bertrand Lebeau, who heads the respiratory department at St. Antoine Hospital Paris. "It is so generous that people often abuse it."

French hospitals rarely turn away patients, even if they are foreigners not covered by the plan. Anyone who manages to get a few paychecks, with minimum

deductions, stays on the books.

Private doctors can charge as much as they can get, and order whatever tests they want, as long as patients pay the unreimbursed difference. But public care is far-reaching.

Beatrice Copreau, 33, a part-time stenographer, is among those sold on Le Secu. Over three years, she spent six months in a hospital with a rare blood infection traced to her heart.

Her last operation, doctors said, was more complicated than a heart transplant. She had no savings, but did not need any. The state paid it all.

Across Europe, stabilised population growth and longer life spans put heavy pressure on health coverage. Fewer young workers must support

elders who no longer contribute to the pot.

As deficits increase, politicians must tell voters the choice is between paying more for coverage and rationing health care. Already, nonemergency cases overwhelm some systems.

The Dutch try hard not to skimp. Amsterdam's Academic Medical Centre is the largest teaching hospital in Europe, with 1,050 beds and 4,000 pieces of art.

But, in the Netherlands, patients might wait half a year for operations that are not urgent. Waiting lists are lengthening for admission to old-age homes and mental hospitals.

Budgets are sometimes too tight to pay for new specialised equipment in smaller hospitals.

Reforms under debate may shift the traditional Dutch focus, as more workers bridle at carrying other people's load.

"It is easy for anyone to take advantage," said Dori King, a psychologist who supervises health claims at a large company she prefers not to name.

An employee who is sick, or who can effectively fake it, can be entitled to years at full pay.

Mr. King laughs about one case, a stock clerk who worked half-time at full pay because a back injury prevented him from handling heavy loads.

"He misunderstood his rights and thought he would lose his benefits after a year," she said. "In the 51st week, he started weight-lifting, healthier than ever. It was a miracle cure."

Scientists sweat out success in fight against malaria

By Nick Louth
Reuters

WAGENINGEN, Netherlands — It's the smell of human sweat that lures the malaria-carrying mosquito to its victim, according to an international team of scientists.

Their discovery opens up a real chance of developing a simple chemically-baited trap to attract and kill the insects.

The scientists have isolated a blend of chemicals from human perspiration that acts as a powerful attractant to Anopheles Gambiae, the ferocious African mosquito which is the main carrier of the devastating cerebral malaria parasite.

"Hopefully we will be able in a few years to come up with a system which can be used indoors or outdoors in rural Africa to trap mosquitoes and break the malaria transmission cycle," said Bart Knols, a researcher at the University of Wageningen.

Malaria is an ancient tropical scourge, killing more than a million people a year — several times more than AIDS. One hundred million others develop the disease, responsible for more than a quarter of all deaths of children under five in Africa.

Man has fought for 50 years to wipe out its insect carriers. The parasite is becoming increasingly resistant to the drugs used to treat it, and only recently has progress been made towards finding an effective vaccine.

Global warming has opened the possibility that malaria may spread to new areas, such as southern Europe.

Dr. Knols said the chemical mixture discovered is being kept secret until scientific publication later this year.

"It is not really a secret but we are making progress, and we are at the stage of publishing it... later this year," he told Reuters.

"We are thinking in terms of compound made from human sweat, that is as far as I can go," he said.

A similar approach has already paid huge dividends in fighting the tsetse fly, an African cattle pest which also carries sleeping sickness, a disease which can be fatal to man.

"In the last 20 years of research they have come up with a very good trap which can be used in large scale field control operations for tsetse flies," Dr. Knols said.

"Many thousands of square kilometres are now being freed of tsetse flies," he said.

The tsetse trap is a simple cloth soaked in insecticide and stretched over a frame. Underneath it is a small bottle full of chemicals irresistible to the flies. It is being successfully used in Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Dr. Knols said an effective

mosquito attractant could already have been produced if research had followed the same path.

"The research on the mosquitoes was abandoned in the early 1970s when people were putting more and more reliance on the use of insecticides," he said.

"I'm sure if we had continued in the early 1970s up to this stage we would have found some (mosquito) attractants. But we are still 20 years behind in comparison with the tsetse people."

The biggest problem is the diversity of malarial mosquitoes.

Each of the hundreds of species of mosquitoes which make up the malaria-spreading Anopheles family operates in a slightly different way and may use different attractants.

It has been known for many years that body heat, humidity and exhaled carbon dioxide attract mosquitoes to

human and animal victims.

Dr. Knols was looking for something specific to Anopheles Gambiae which gets more than 70 per cent of its blood from humans.

He hopes to have further refined the blend by the time the research is published.

"What we are mainly interested in is something which is very, very human specific," Dr. Knols said.

Research groups are operating at London's Imperial College, the Institute of Parasitology in Rome, the Tanzanian National Institute of Medical Research and Wageningen's Department of Entomology. Financial backing is provided by the European Community and the U.S. group Johnson and Johnson.

Dr. Knols said research was conducted in a wind tunnel, releasing a stream of each test chemical and using infra red sensitive video equipment to see how the mosquitoes reacted.

Using the blend in the tunnel, mosquitoes were two and a half to three times more likely to follow that scent than a control substance.

The next stage will be to conduct field trials. These will be difficult but Dr. Knols is certain he is on the right track.

"It is a well known fact that if you put two people in a bedroom one gets bitten more than the other. That is not something to do with heat or humidity, that must be odours," he said.

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Scientists fighting breast cancer see green tea, broccoli as possible weapons

By Laurant Neergaard
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Scientists are trying to determine whether green tea, oil from orange peel or even a broccoli pill can help women ward off breast cancer.

Food is a new frontier in breast cancer research, and about 300 scientists assembled by the National Cancer Institute compared data on how large a role diet plays.

"We're swimming in a sea of carcinogens, but nature also gives us a sea of preventive agents," said Dr. Clinton Grubbs of the University of Alabama.

Breast cancer is the leading cancer among American women, killing about 46,000 each year. Heredity is the leading risk factor, and doctors are honing in on a possible breast cancer gene.

But they consider food chock-full of possible deterrents. They're racing to identify and isolate the best nutrients, hoping to add them to the foods Americans like to eat.

"We added fluoride to water, iodine to salt," Dr. Grubbs said. "We'll never be

able to get Americans to eat just the good foods...so may be we can add them to our bread, our milk, something the public ingests every day."

The National Cancer Institute's Dr. Elizabeth Snyderwine amplified this idea: "Our ultimate goal is to find ways of eating and living rather than eating and dying."

"Maybe a salad and a steak can offset each other."

Topping the research list are green tea, orange oil, garlic and onions — staples of diets in areas with low breast cancer rates, including Japan and the Mediterranean.

Each contain complex chemicals — called phytochemicals — that affect the body's metabolism, said Dr. Thomas Kensler of Johns Hopkins University.

The body breaks down food to use it. This metabolism also produces free radicals, agents that attack the structure of cells and leave them susceptible to cancer.

But some enzymes fight free radicals, and phytochemicals boost those enzymes, Dr. Kensler said. His early research shows a phytochemical in the oil from orange peel has the most dramatic

effect.

Broccoli also jump-starts enzymes, Dr. Kensler found. But as vegetables age and are cooked, they lose that cancer-fighting edge. Also, if not properly washed, pesticide residue offsets the benefits.

"Maybe one day we'll put broccoli in a pill," he said.

Vitamin A also boosts natural cancer defences but has a huge drawback — large doses are toxic. Dr. Grubbs is studying derivatives of Vitamin A called Retinoids; early results indicate they're nontoxic cancer fighters.

"Do not go buy Vitamin A supplements and ingest them," Dr. Grubbs warned. "Until we find ways to boost Retinoids, just eat lots of green leafy vegetables."

The scientists disagreed about dietary fat.

For a decade, doctors have warned women that fat may cause breast cancer, although no one could explain why.

Now some doctors say avoid fat if you fear heart

disease, but do not worry about it causing breast cancer.

Dr. Geoffrey Howe of Canada's National Cancer Institute and Dr. Walter Willett of Harvard studied about 6,000 breast cancer patients and concluded that if fat plays any role, it's a very weak one.

But Dr. Sherwood Gorbach of Tufts University thinks fat raises the body's natural levels of Estrogen, which is linked to breast cancer. His studies show low-fat, high-fiber diets lower Estrogen.

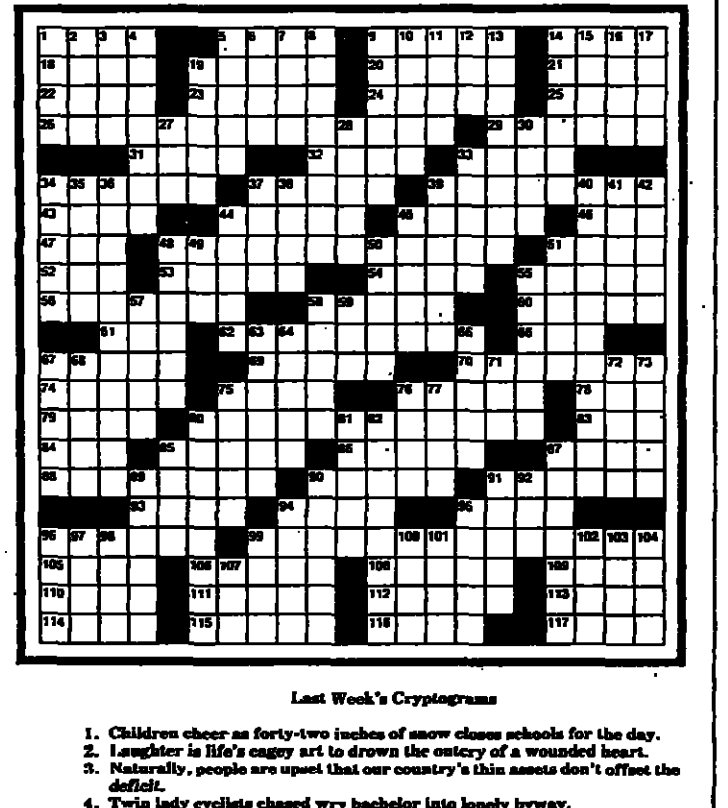
And some plants — particularly soybeans — drop Estrogen levels even more, he said. Japanese women, for example, have very low breast cancer rates. They consume soy in bulk while Americans eat little.

"Does that mean consumption of soy can prevent cancer? I don't know," Dr. Gorbach said. "It's a very tantalising possibility."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

- RECEIVERSHIP
By James & Phyllis Barrick
- ACROSS
1. Fune
 2. Pivotal
 3. Lure-call lunch
 4. Twiddle
 5. Omelette
 6. Grogginess
 7. Biting about
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- Diagramless 19 x 19, By Craig Scholten
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Russia to send force to Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

until the other (Bosnian) Serb side shows good will," Mr. Izetbegovic told reporters.

He said Bosnian Serb forces would have to lift their siege of various towns, withdraw their heavy weapons and allow civilians freedom of movement before new talks would be possible.

As Mr. Izetbegovic spoke, deputies of the self-styled Bosnian

Serb parliament met at Pale, in the hills above Sarajevo, to debate whether to accept or reject the Vance-Owen plan to divide the republic into 10 semi-autonomous ethnic cantons.

A U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman in Sarajevo said that a team of five military observers dispatched to the eastern besieged town of Zepa were stopped by a local

Serb commander.

U.N. General Philippe Morillon reached agreement with both Serbs and Muslims on Tuesday to send military observers to Zepa, where there were reports of heavy fighting, and to other eastern Bosnian Muslim enclaves.

But the UNPROFOR spokesman said: "We have confirmation that a local commander was not informed of their (the observers') permission to travel to Zepa and has stopped them along the way."

He could not say where they had been stopped and cautioned that the information was already hours old.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic initialled the peace document in Athens Sunday, but it still needs ratification from his hardline parliament.

Mr. Karadzic appealed to the assembly Wednesday to approve the peace plan or prepare for Western attacks.

"I implore you to ratify the

plan," Mr. Karadzic told parliament. "Otherwise, the damage will be enormous."

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic also urged the assembly to pass the accord.

Both Mr. Karadzic and Mr. Milosevic had previously opposed the peace plan, but have reversed their stance as Western allies increased threats of military intervention.

"All nations in history have had to make compromises in

order to survive," Greek Premier Constantine Mitsotakis told the assembly. "Don't give a chance to those powers eagerly awaiting a military intervention against you."

"Don't commit suicide," Mr. Mitsotakis added. "Vote for peace."

But the assembly of Bosnian Serbs, many of them belligerents hardened by a year of fighting

that has left 134,000 people dead or missing, just last month unanimously voted to reject the peace plan.

It is not certain when the 82-member assembly meeting for two days in the Heavenly Valley region of Mount Jahorina is to make the final decision. Mount Kahorina was the site of the 1984 Sarajevo Winter Olympics.

"The vote will be very close and unpredictable," said Momcilo Krajisnik, head of the assembly, before members began their initial closed-door session Wednesday morning.

Serbia and Serbian-dominated Yugoslavia are suffering under strict new U.N. sanctions meant to choke them into ending their support of the Bosnian Serb rebels.

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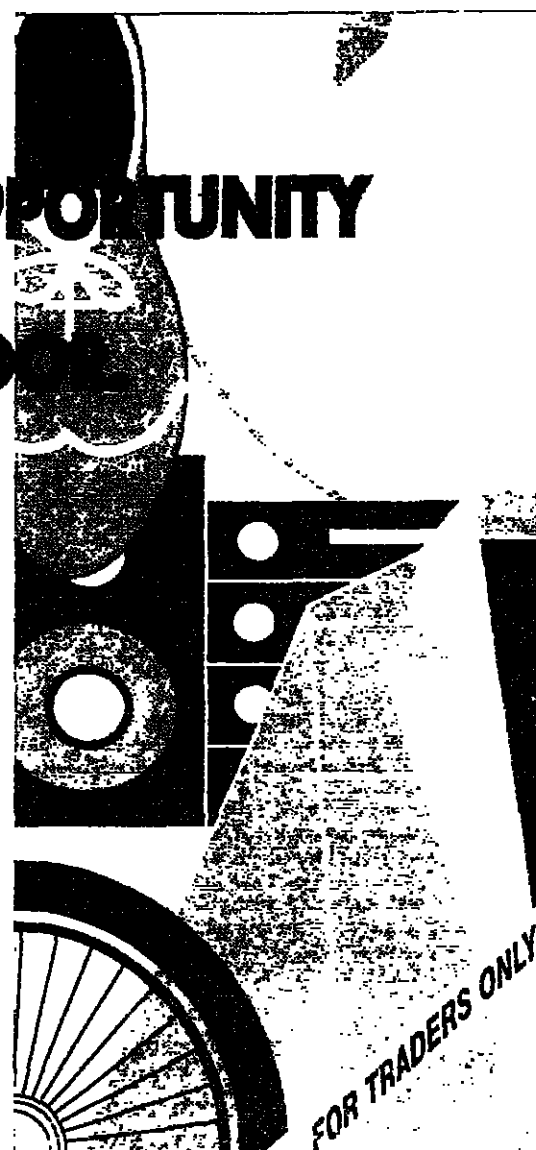
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BEIRUT	HOTEL BRISTOL 10-5-93 & 11-5-93 : Exhibition 12-5-93 : Follow up
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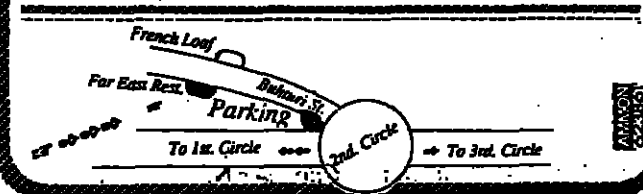


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Jordan's 1991 titleholders Al Orthodoxy

Al Maidan's basketball tourney begins Friday

Ahli, Orthodoxy face-off before May 20 final

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Seven top Arab basketball teams Friday begin competition at the Sports Palace in Amman in the basketball championship organized by Al Maidan sports weekly in celebration of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of constitutional powers.

The tournament which opens at 4.30 p.m. will enjoy wide television coverage of the matches between the teams representing four countries.

Jordanian basketball fans will not only get the chance to watch well-known players like Thamer Mustafa, Naseer Ahmad, Qusai Hatem and many others, but they will finally see the Kingdom's star-studded all-time rivals, Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxy, playing after a break of over three months.

The two teams last met in the First Division Championship. However they have not yet played the title-deciding match as the competition was

disrupted by a technical controversy which the Jordan Basketball Federation failed to resolve. Now a new date has been set for the final match — May 20.

Al Maidan's tournament has attracted Lebanon's Al Riyadi and Al Hikma, Iraq's Air Force team and Al Naft Club, a unified team representing clubs in Jerusalem, in addition to Jordan's Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxy. Al Wathba of Syria pulled out of the tournament Tuesday.

All competing teams have impressive records to boast of and the Iraqi teams probably have the most experienced players who have previously played in Jordan representing Al Karkh and Al Rasheed clubs.

The two Jordanian teams include most of the country's best players: Murad and Hilal Barakat, Naser Bushnaq, Sameer Murqus, Jihad Saliba, Marwan Ma'touq, Walid Badran and Muntaser Abulayyeb.

Jordan beats Oman in soccer friendly

MUSCAT (J.T.) — Jordan beat Oman 1-0 in a friendly match played Wednesday at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex. The match's only goal was scored by Mohammad Al Ashhab 70 minutes into the game. The two teams will meet again Thursday. The matches are part of the two countries' preparations for the World Cup qualifying tournament for the Asian group. The group includes Jordan, Pakistan, China, Yemen and Iraq. Jordan will host the first stage matches of the tournament which will kick off on May 22, in Irbid.

Chang latest victim of Goellner

HAMBURG (AFP) — Michael Chang Tuesday became the latest big-name victim of 22-year-old German Marc Goellner when he was beaten 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 in the 2nd round of the German Open in Hamburg.

Goellner, who first made his mark by defeating Stefan Edberg and Ivan Lendl to win the Nice Open last month, withstood a determined challenge from the 5th seeded American, who was playing his first tournament on clay this year. Ninth seed Wayne Ferreira, not at his best after travelling from the Davis Cup tie against the Ivory Coast, fell 6-3, 6-4 to Jonas Svensson, and 12th seed Carlos Costa joined the South African on the sidelines. The Spaniard was beaten 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 by Andrei Chesnokov. Marcos Ondruska, seeded 14, had to win a final set tie-break to beat Belgian Burt Wuyts.

Goellner's huge serve had Chang in trouble from the start, and for a long period the American could do little more than return it into play.

"I had quite a few opportunities to win the match," Chang confessed afterwards. "But I didn't convert them."

"My return was a little too short and that was a major problem, but I shall go away and work on a few things to get ready for Rome next week and the French Open."

NBA playoff results

NEW YORK (R) — Results of first-round National Basketball Association playoff games played Tuesday:

Eastern Conference

Chicago 98 8 Atlanta 88 (Chicago wins best-of-five series 3-0)

Indiana 116 — New York 93 (New York leads series 2-1)

Western Conference

Utah 90 — Seattle 80 (Utah leads series 2-1)

Phoenix 107 — L.A. Lakers 102 (Los Angeles leads series 2-1)



French Francois Delecour on his way to capturing the 37th Tour of Corsica rally at the wheel of his Ford Escort Cosworth (AFP photo)

Delecour wins Tour of Corsica

AJACCIO, Corsica (AP) — France's Francois Delecour won the tour of Corsica auto rally Tuesday beating defending champion Didier Auriol by barely a minute.

Delecour, driving a Ford Cosworth, was ahead of compatriot Auriol, in a Toyota Celica, by 1 minute, 2 seconds. The rally had a total distance of 1,131 kilometres and 24 specials over the three days.

Delecour was in command of the race from the first day when he took seven of the eight timed special sections.

In third place was another Frenchman, Francois Chatriot, in a Toyota, 2:42 behind Delecour.

Fourth was Carlos Sainz of Spain, last year's world champion, 3:48 behind Delecour. Sainz was in a Lancia Delta.

Delecour now takes the lead over Juha Kankkunen of Finland in the World Championship driver's standings with 55 points. Kankkunen is second with 43. Kankkunen did not enter the tour of Corsica.



U.S. OVERCOMES CUBA 7-6: U.S. and Cuban players in action during the 8th Water Polo World Cup match in Athens. In other matches Italy beat Germany 11-5, Hungary beat Russia 10-8 and Australia beat Greece 8-6 (AFP photo)

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MAY 7, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation
GENERAL TENDENCIES: Let influential men... whether they understand you or have different ideas from yours, know what you feel they can do to increase your wellbeing. Make a point to use care in dealing with females.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A brilliant person shows what you can do to be more productive in a mutual undertaking, then you can get into your specific duties to be done.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think about how you will be able to perform activities of a routine nature with a greater flair, after which you can get outsiders' views of your abilities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You long for some new delights and can find some today if you are alert to them, after which get into the means by which you can show talent.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever family members are of importance can be handled in a unique fashion now after which take family with you to some outside amusements.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Go out in the world and do the things important to you that you have been putting off or not had the time to do and tonight enjoy home, family comforts.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can take a good look at your property and possessions and see what they require and then study all available sources to find ways to do so.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take into account today va-

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSH
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♦ J 2
♣ K Q 10 9 5 3 2
SOUTH
♠ Void
♥ K J 10 8 5
♦ K 8 7 4
♣ A J 7 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 3 ♣ 4 ♠ 4 ♣
5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass
Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
By elevating the bidding to an uncomfortably high level immediately, preemptive bids force opponents to make decisions when they do not have sufficient information for educated action. A certain amount of probing in the fog might be the result, frequently leading to poor contracts. But the very distribution that made the preempt attractive can work in the opponents' favor.

Left to their own endeavors, it is unlikely that North-South would

have reached slam. And if they did, it is quite probable declarer would have gone wrong and conceded down one. When South bid freely over East's four spades, North raised confidently to slam despite the doubleton club. Without club control, South could not have an opening bid, let alone the values to contract for 11 tricks.

West led the king of clubs and declarer was not in love with the prospects of scrapping together 12 tricks—it looked like there was an unavoidable loser in each minor suit. However, the fact that each defender held a long suit offered some hope.

Declarer won the opening lead in the closed hand, crossed to the nine of hearts and ruffed a spade. The queen, provided the entry for another spade ruff. A diamond to the ace was followed by the ace of spades, on which declarer discarded a club, and declarer had a nearly complete count of the hand. West probably started with a 3-2-2-6 distribution. It was a simple matter for declarer to cash the king of diamonds and exit with a diamond. On East's forced spade return, declarer ruffed and discarded the table's remaining club. Dummy then took the last three tricks.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MAY 6, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Consult with your family about their hopes and wishes for the future and join with them in happy accord by relaxing or entertaining at your residence. Make it a happy time for all including drop ins.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Think about what you can best do to go along with a modern-minded friend who has a unique idea so you can gain an important wish, tonight do actual work required.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Seek out the most progressive bigwig whom you can contact and get from him suggestions for the future where your abilities can be best placed.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Think about a trip or jaunt you could take that could enhance your present well being and make the arrangements for delaying would lose you the opportunity.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Consider what your best traits are for increasing the image in which you are held by the general public, enhance these and add to your prestige.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) Put aside those very conservative ideas that mean so much to you and become more of the modern scene today and your success increases proportionately.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Start the day right by putting

into motion new business formulas and methods that can add to your present efficiency and operative skill.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Join forces now with those who have confidence in and are very positive in their approach at gaining your mutual aims and they become yours.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Look into the various ways you decided yesterday you could better your current activities and try them out for size and you make rapid headway to accomplishment.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever entertainment, recreations or amusements appeal to you but you have not yet enjoyed should be a part of your agenda for today, tonight.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A day to expect all sorts and types of conditions to arise at your home and you need to make sure that you handle them in a sparkling manner.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be on the lookout for ways to be more productive by accepting advanced and unusual ways to put your usual routines and activities across.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you had planned of a materialistic nature from a more up to date stance can be put in effect by you with a good chance of success.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"It's like a Stephen King plot — no matter how often we pay them, they keep coming back!!!"

Injured quartet named for England squad

LONDON (AFP) — England manager Graham Taylor named his four injury-hit players in a 25-man squad for five close-season internationals Wednesday and then kept his fingers crossed that they would be available.

Midfielders Paul Gascoigne and David Batty, striker Ian Wright and left-back Tony Dorigo have all been chosen, despite being sidelined.

Gascoigne is currently recovering from an operation on a fractured cheekbone. Wright is just back in training after a broken toe. Dorigo has had an ankle injury and Batty has had knee trouble.

But Taylor expects all four to be fit for the World Cup qualifiers in Poland May 29 and Norway June 2, plus the three U.S. Cup matches across the Atlantic against the 1994 World Cup



Moscow forward Jurgen Klinsmann (left) strikes the ball despite Paris Saint Germain defender Gomes Ricardo's tackle during their French Cup match. PSG advanced to the quarterfinals after winning 1-0 (AFP photo)

hosts, Brazil and Germany. In contrast, goalkeeper David Seaman and winger John Barnes will both miss the three games in the USA.

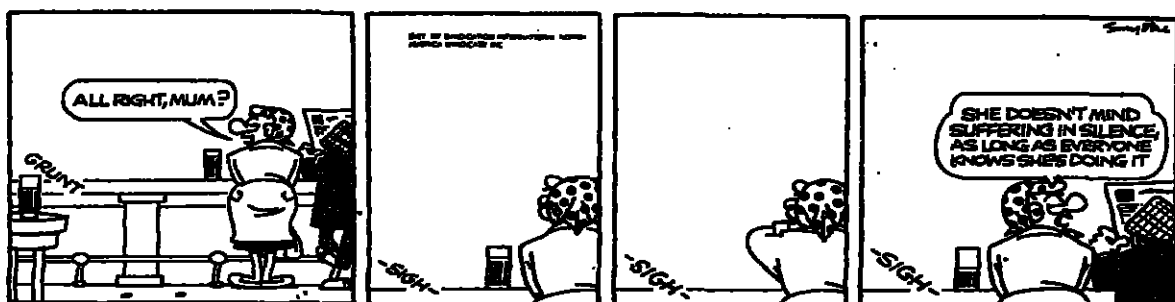
Marseille rest seven first team players: European Cup finalists Marseille have rested seven first team players and left coach Raymond Goethals at home before their French Cup match with Cea, Wednesday.

Croatian striker Alen Boksic and Ghanaian forward Abedi

Pele have remained in Marseille along with the five players who were with the French World Cup squad last week — midfielders Franck Sauzeau and Didier Deschamps, defenders Jocelyn Angloma and Basile Boli and goalkeeper Fabien Barthez.

Marseille, chasing a record fifth consecutive title, aim to become the first French club to win a European trophy when they meet AC Milan in the European Cup final in Munich May 26.

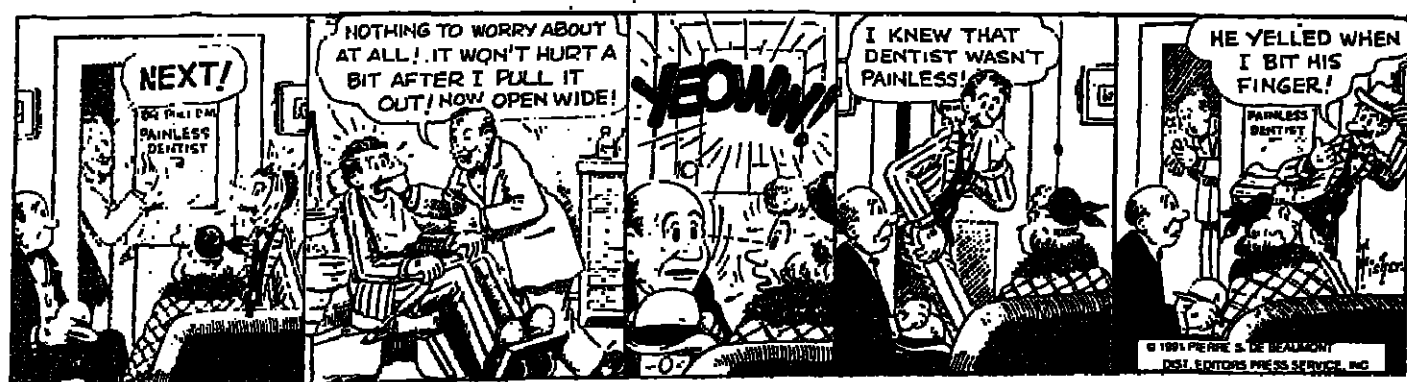
Peanuts



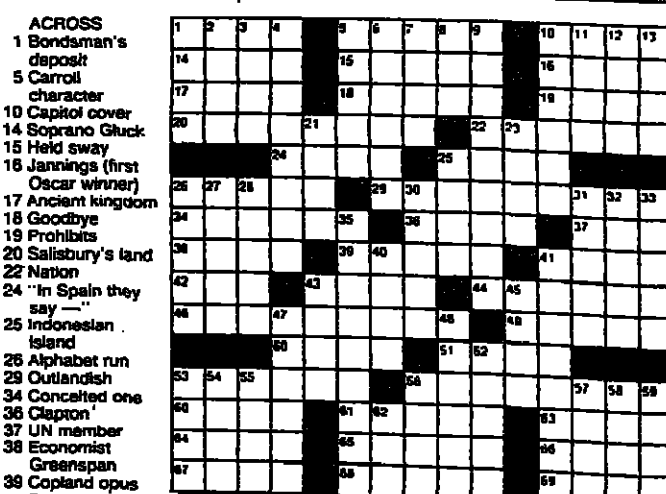
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Isaac Miller



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ACROSS
1 Bondsman's deposit
5 Charmer
10 Capitol cover
14 Soprano Gluck
15 Held away
16 Jannings (first Oscar winner)
17 Ancient kingdom
18 Said item
19 Prohibits
20 Salisbury's land
22 Nation
24 "In Spain they say..."
25 Indonesian island
26 Alphabet run
29 Outlandish
30 Concealed one
36 Clapnet
37 UN member
38 Economist
39 Copland opus
41 Observes
42 Steiger or Taylor
43 Guantanamo's location
44 Disposition
46 Noted conductor
48 Said item
50 Alencon, e.g.
51 Beach
53 Fruit
56 Anno transports
60 Mine output
61 Fish
63 Dick and Jane's dog
64 Matinee
65 Spooky
66 Architect
67 Sumner
67 Conservative family
68 Place
69 Small cookie
DOWN
1 Singer Joan
2 "Do Is Dream of You"
3 Muslim leader
4 Coat liner
5 Swift steeds
6 Beethoven's first
7 Neiman Nastase
8 Average mark
9 Teaching
10 Flotsam and jetsam
11 Gen. Bradley
12 Shirt type
13 Other
22 Actor
23 Baldwin
25 Friesome one
26 Ticker
27 Home home
28 Steinbeck
30 Fortification
31 Line
32 Consumers
33 Relaxes
35 Cuts off
40 Acting sword
41 Emphasizes
43 "The Godfather" actor
45 Blackjack cards
47 Sling
48 Roma's land
52 Angered
53 Vessel
54 Jason's craft
55 do-si-do
56 Apple remnant
57 Store sign
58 Asia's mistress
59 Hair
62 Soak fix

Reform deputies see support for early Russian elections

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Reformist members of the Congress of People's Deputies said Wednesday they were gathering support for moves to force the dissolution of the Russian parliament and hold early elections.

Lev Ponomarev, one of the group, said last month's referendum victory by President Boris Yeltsin had made some deputies who had abandoned his camp think about rejoining it.

"Of course they are thinking about their future," he said. Mr. Ponomarev and other pro-Yeltsin deputies were speaking at a news conference at which they accused parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov of protecting organisers of violent clashes with police in Moscow on May Day.

Mr. Khasbulatov, Mr. Yeltsin's main rival, appeared on television Tuesday and blamed Moscow's reformist city authorities for the clashes.

Father Gleb Yakunin, a pro-Yeltsin radical, said around 200 deputies would support dissolution of the Congress, elected in 1990. If 150 more gave their support, this would be enough to deprive it of a quorum and force early elections.

Mr. Yeltsin is seeking early elections and the adoption of a new constitution. But under the existing constitution he cannot dissolve either Congress or the smaller standing parliament, the Supreme Soviet.

"The president won a clear victory in the referendum. All deputies understand that he now has a clear strategic advantage. A lot are hesitating and would like to cross back to the president's

side," Mr. Yakunin said.

Mr. Ponomarev said he was giving up his seat in the Supreme Soviet though he would remain a Congress deputy. He accused Mr. Khasbulatov of trying to purge reformers from parliamentary committees.

Lawyer Boris Zolotukhin told the news conference he and his colleagues were concerned that none of the organisers of Saturday's march had been arrested or charged. "The investigation seems to be very feeble," he said.

The demonstration led to clashes with police in which about 600 people were injured. The disturbances were the worst since three men were killed during an abortive 1991 Soviet coup attempt.

Communist and nationalist groups which organised the march have been rallying around parliament since Saturday, seeking support among the deputies who are expected to meet Thursday afternoon to discuss the May Day events.

Speakers at the news conference said Mr. Khasbulatov had done nothing to stop the demonstrators displaying openly anti-Semitic banners outside the parliament building.

Official results of the April 25 referendum were released Wednesday and confirmed that voters endorsed President Boris Yeltsin for his leadership and for his reforms, ITAR-TASS reported.

The publication of the final results came after Mr. Yeltsin said he would take steps to turn his referendum victory into actions to cow his conservative foes

in parliament.

A majority of 58.7 per cent of Russian voters answered "yes" to the question: "Do you have confidence in President Boris Yeltsin?", according to the official figures released by the Central Electoral Commission.

On the second question — "Do you support socio-economic reforms implemented by President Boris Yeltsin?", 53 per cent of voters answered "yes".

The third and fourth questions on the ballot on early presidential and parliamentary elections got the backing of 31.7 per cent of registered voters and 43.1 per cent respectively.

Turnout was 69.2 million of Russia's 105.5 million registered voters.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev reiterated Wednesday that the army would remain neutral in the political conflict between the president and conservative-dominated parliament.

Speaking before a group of Soviet army veterans, Mr. Grachev said it would be "inadmissible" to drag the Russian army into "settling political scores".

"The political struggle must be carried out within the constitutional and legal framework without having to rely on security forces, especially the army," he said.

Mr. Grachev has been a loyal supporter of Mr. Yeltsin in the latter's struggle with his hardline foes.

In a separate development, a Russian special forces officer crushed by a truck during Saturday's clashes between police and Communist demonstrators in Moscow died in hospital Wednesday, Commonwealth Television said.

The 25-year-old officer of the Omon special police force, Vladimir Tolokneyev, died after failing to regain consciousness. His head was crushed when a truck backed into him, pushing him against another vehicle.

The main Medical Administration of Moscow announced that at 1425 (1025 GMT), in Moscow Hospital Number One, the 25-year-old Omon officer injured during May Day incidents died, an announcer said, reading an official statement.

The Omon soldier, father of an 11-month-old baby girl, was the first person to die as a result of the fighting and the first to be killed in a political clash in Moscow since three young men were shot by troops during a failed 1991 coup.

President Yeltsin pledged Tuesday to punish the organisers of the bloody May Day riot and said he would attempt to prevent further violence.

"We know the May Day events in the capital caused anguish across the land," Mr. Yeltsin said in a statement carried on Russian and Commonwealth Television.

"The instigators, inciters and executors of the provocation will be identified and punished under Russian law."

Hardliners have threatened further violence in an effort to undermine the political boost Mr. Yeltsin received upon winning the referendum on his leadership and his policies.



SANTIAGO FLOODS: This aerial view shows houses flooded up to roof level in a suburb south of Santiago Tuesday one day after torrential rains triggered flooding and mudslides killing at least 15 people and injuring over 80. Local officials report that 1,200 people have been taken to shelters after their homes were destroyed (AFP photo)

Italy premier may win confidence vote

ROME (AFP) — Italian Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi is certain of winning parliament's approval in a confidence vote after completing the formation of his new politically-independent government.

The posts of environment minister, finance minister, universities minister and minister for relations with parliament were left open last Thursday when three former Communists and a Green Party member resigned in protest of a parliament vote sparing former Premier Bettino Craxi from facing corruption charges.

The resignations, within hours of the new 24-member government being sworn in, were widely seen as a severe blow to the new administration of Mr. Ciampi, the former Central Bank governor who took over from Giuliano Andreotti to head Italy's 52nd post-war government.

But Mr. Ciampi moved quickly in naming replacements who, like him, are politically independent, and vowing to press ahead with legislative and electoral reforms widely approved by voters in a referendum last month.

In a statement issued Tuesday he named Socialist Valdo Spini, previous European affairs minister, as new environment minister to replace Francesco Rutelli, who resigned after becoming the Italian Greens' first minister.

The new finance minister was named as Franco Gallo, a professor of financial law, to replace Vincenzo Visco, of the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), or former Communists.

The post of universities minister went to Umberto Colombo, replacing Luigi Berlinguer, also of the PDS, while Livio Paladin was appointed new European affairs minister to replace Spini.

The appointments were seen as reinforcing the independence of the new government from its five-party backers.

Mr. Ciampi, backed by President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, has promised to move as quickly as possible in implementing legislative reforms that call for replacing Italy's proportional voting system that has allowed parties to fill parliamentary seats according to their share of the tally.

His attitude is expected to win him parliamentary approval during a confidence vote Thursday or Friday despite announcements by several parties that they will abstain from voting.

The PDS has told its 107 deputies to abstain or vote against Mr. Ciampi but several members of the party said they expect the majority of PDS deputies to abstain from the vote.

The Republican Party's 27 deputies are expected to equally vote in favour or abstain.

Umberto Bossi, the head of the federalist Lombard League, said his party's 53 deputies would abstain from the vote.

Cambodian elections move full speed ahead despite string of U.N. attacks

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — It will take more than the Khmer Rouge's constant attacks against U.N. peacekeepers and Cambodian provincial capitals to derail the country's elections less than three weeks away, U.N. officials here said Wednesday.

But the killing of a Japanese U.N. policeman, a rampage through the town of Siem Reap and the shelling of U.N. peacekeepers from China already this week go further than ever before in showing that the U.N. plan for peace in Cambodia has failed and that elections held in an unstable environment will have questionable legitimacy.

"At this stage we're still preparing the election," U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said after Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked the U.N. Chinese engineering battalion base in central Kompong Thom overnight, damaging two buildings but causing no casualties.

"The date has not changed," he said. "Nothing much has changed."

China was the Khmer Rouge's main political and military ally in the 14-year civil war against the Phnom Penh government, and could well have supplied the shells which were fired at its troops.

But it has distanced itself from the Khmer Rouge since the faction refused to participate in the election, calling it a rubber-stamp

of the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia, and stepped up violent attacks that apparently are aimed at disrupting the poll.

Up until recently, the \$2 billion 20,000-member U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) had made a neutral political environment the "sine qua non" for holding the May 23-28 elections.

Now UNTAC has said it would be satisfied in legitimising any government elected in the best environment possible under the circumstances.

Opposition political parties say intimidation by the present Phnom Penh government continues unabated, and villagers have been warned by the Khmer Rouge to stay away from the polls or they risk being caught up in the violence.

Peacekeepers throughout the country have been placed on a level-one alert, with some districts moving up to level two after a Khmer Rouge ambush on a U.N. convoy which left the Japanese policeman dead Tuesday.

Japanese policemen were reportedly arriving in Phnom Penh from distant provinces in order to discuss their security.

At least 10 per cent of all U.N. electoral officials have quit, and a number have been withdrawn from their districts. Their retreat means UNTAC will have to call in soldiers to run the polling

booths or cancel the election altogether in certain areas.

UNTAC force commander Lieutenant General John Sanderson said the United Nations was discussing the ramifications of continued Khmer Rouge attacks on U.N. personnel, but reiterated that there are no plans to call off the election.

"This means at this point they (the Khmer Rouge) are definitely going to stop the elections in some areas they control," Sanderson told AFP.

"We're still working on the assumption that the vast majority of the Cambodian population can get to a polling station," he said.

The Khmer Rouge have made their position clear in clandestine radio broadcasts, in which they constantly charge that UNTAC is siding with the so-called "Vietnamese aggressors" and that the Cambodian people are "resolutely opposed" to the elections.

On Wednesday, a statement by nominal Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan read in English called the elections "ridiculous and dangerous."

The Khmer Rouge say Vietnamese troops still occupy Cambodia, and that UNTAC is helping to keep them in power through an election that will give them international recognition.

Peking "strongly condemned" Wednesday the attack on the Chinese U.N. contingent in Cambodia.

4 police killed in S. Africa ambush

SOWETO, South Africa (AP) — Four black police officers were killed and five wounded Wednesday when their truck was ambushed by gunmen in Soweto, the black township outside Johannesburg.

A man claiming to be from a radical black group telephoned the South African Press Association later Wednesday and claimed responsibility for the ambush, one of several violent incidents in the Johannesburg region.

Students protesting mandatory exam fees began protesting in many areas Tuesday, which apparently sparked several confrontations Wednesday.

The truck, taking more than 20 black police officers to their posts in Soweto, stopped at a traffic light and was surrounded by gunmen who opened fire with AK-47 assault rifles, police Maj. Herman Oosthuysen said. Three policemen and a police woman were killed.

"We found at least 30 AK-47 cartridges at the scene," said Oosthuysen. "There was a lot of shooting."

Police immediately launched a ground and air search in Soweto, a sprawling city with some three million black residents.

A caller claiming to represent the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA) and identifying himself as Comrade Kaboko said five APLA members carried out the attack. He warned of more ambushes "until the land is restored to us."

The APLA is the military wing of the Pan African Congress, a black nationalist group that considers police a prime target in its armed struggle against President F.W. De Klerk's white government.

China criticises Patten's U.S. talks

HONG KONG (R) — China has accused Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten of creating obstacles to Sino-British talks on the territory's future by meeting U.S. President Bill Clinton, a Peking controlled newspaper reported Wednesday.

"During the Sino-British talks on Hong Kong affairs anybody who goes overseas to play the international card will not help the meeting to be successful but will even create obstacles to the talks," Tu Kung Pao quoted Zhang Junsheng, vice director of Xinhua News Agency's Hong Kong branch, as saying.

Mr. Clinton endorsed Mr. Patten's plans for democratic reform when they held talks at the White House Monday at the first official meeting between a U.S. leader and a governor of the British colony.

Speaking Tuesday, Mr. Zhang said Hong Kong issues were a matter for Britain and China alone up to the colony's July 1, 1997 return to the mainland.

China has long accused Mr. Patten of internationalising his dispute with Peking over the electoral reforms by seeking foreign support for his package.

"Any third party would have no right to interfere. This is our consistent stand," said Mr. Zhang, repeating a long-held policy.

Final blows dealt in Allen, Farrow custody trial

NEW YORK (AFP) — Actress Mia Farrow cried as Woody Allen's lawyer accused her of manipulating her children in a hate-filled struggle against Allen, as the bitter child-custody trial drew to a close Tuesday.

Farrow's lawyer fired his final shots in the headline-grabbing battle by asking that Allen, 57, not be allowed to visit 7-year-old Dylan, whose childhood he "virtually destroyed."

Allen and Farrow have been battling for seven weeks for custody of Dylan, their adopted daughter; adopted son Moses, 15; biological son Satchel, 5. A ruling is expected from Justice Elliot Wilk of the New York Supreme Court in about a month.

Allen's lawyer said Farrow, 48, used her children as "pawns," while wielding "her unmitigated hatred of their father."

Allen and Farrow never lived together but had been longtime lovers and film-industry colleagues.

The nasty legal tug of war kicked off when Farrow accused Allen of sexually molesting Dylan. Allen denied the charge

and an independent team of sex-molestation experts said Allen did not molest the girl.

That was shortly after Farrow found naked photographs of her adopted daughter, Soon-Yi Previn, 22, in Allen's flat in January, 1992. Allen subsequently admitted that he and Previn were lovers.

Allen's lawyer, Elikan Abramowitz, asked the judge to grant Allen half-time custody of the children, or unsupervised visitation rights.

He said the sex-abuse charge was concocted out of jealousy over the relationship between Allen and Previn. He quoted Farrow as telling Allen: "You took my daughter and I'm going to take yours."

Farrow's lawyer, Eleanor Alter, asked the judge to deny Allen visits with Dylan, at least at present. She asked that Satchel continue visiting Allen twice a week under supervision and said Moses is "old enough, intelligent enough and strong enough to make decisions for himself."

Although a team of Connecticut sex-abuse experts had cleared

state bordering Burma with no previous history of the religious strife that has plagued other parts of India.

Manipur police spokesman R. Sanayam Singh, in another telephone interview, said 117 bodies had been recovered after the mayhem.

Another 67 people had been reported missing, but may be among 2,500 people made homeless and sheltering in seven makeshift refugee camps and centres, he added.

Most of the victims were Muslims, hacked or burned to death.

Rioters also torched nearly 90 vehicles. Private and public bus and transport operators kept their vehicles off Manipur's two main highways, one of them the Burma Road of World War II fame.

Major General Apurba Sengupta said some 2,000 soldiers were sent into Manipur late Tuesday and deployed in the violence-torn areas overnight.

"We have deployed troops in all sensitive areas in Manipur and hope to bring the situation under control with the day," Gen. Sengupta told Reuters.

Threat of violence loom on eve of Premadasa funeral

COLOMBO (R) — Thousands of Sri Lankan Tamils have fled Colombo since the assassination of President Ranasinghe Premadasa which police blamed on Tamil rebels, witnesses said Wednesday.

"Groups of Tamils are arriving here fearing a backlash by the majority Sinhalese," one resident said by telephone from the northern town of Vavuniya.

He said at least 3,000 Tamils had left Colombo and arrived in Vavuniya, where there is a large Tamil population.

Residents said most of the Tamils fleeing the capital were from Gunasinghapura, Kehelwatta and Pettah, districts close to Mr. Premadasa's residence.

An army battalion had moved into the area around the residence to tighten security, military sources said.

The Tamils had been arriving in large numbers in the past few days, mostly by train, residents said. Vavuniya is the last army-

controlled town in the north.

Beyond that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, fighting for a separate state for minority Tamils, control much of the land.

Police said they had detained 30 Tamils overnight in swoops on a tourist hotel and other parts of Wellawatte, a Colombo suburb where there is a large concentration of Tamil residents.

They were taken in for questioning in connection with the assassination, which police blame on the Tigers.

The Tigers have denied links with the suicide bomber who killed Premadasa and 23 others in a May Day parade Saturday.

A Colombo police officer said they had information that some Sinhalese groups, from an area near Mr. Premadasa's private residence, were planning to attack Tamil property after Mr. Premadasa's funeral Thursday.

"If this happens, it could spread to riots similar to what happened in July 1983," he said.

More than 500 Tamils died in communal riots in July 1983 after 13 Sinhalese soldiers were killed by rebels.

Acting President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga has assured Tamil politicians that their community would be fully protected.

"We will not allow that (riots) to happen. Security will be intensified," he said.

Security officials have also promised tight security for foreign representatives attending Mr. Premadasa's funeral.

The queen of Bhutan, Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuk, was the first foreign guest to arrive in Colombo Wednesday. Among other dignitaries expected are U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and former Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Pakistani Acting Prime Minister Baluch Sher Mazri and Indian Vice President K.R. Narayanan are also attending the state funeral.

Column

Hepburn remembered for her work for children

NEW YORK (AP) — Oscar-winning actress Audrey Hepburn was remembered for her "beautiful spirit" and her work as a tireless advocate for the world's needy children. The memorial service for Mrs. Hepburn, who died in January of cancer at age 63, was held by the New York Metropolitan Committee for UNICEF. Since 1985, she had worked for UNICEF as a goodwill ambassador. A poster-sized picture of a smiling Hepburn with the arms of an Ethiopian child wrapped around her neck was placed next to the altar of the Fifth Avenue church where the noon service was held. "She knew from her own childhood that children can overcome... difficulties if they get the help they so desperately need," said Hugh Downs, chairman of the U.S. Committee for UNICEF. As a child, Ms. Hepburn had received help from the United Nations Children's Fund after surviving the last winter of World War II in Holland on a diet of mostly turnips. As a goodwill ambassador for the agency, she brought hope, help and attention to children in Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan.

Cardboard box homes for the homeless

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — In what it calls a symbolic gesture, a housing cooperative is donating cardboard boxes to the city's 3,000 homeless people to make sure they have a roof over their heads. The Our Home Housing Association, a non-profit association that builds government-subsidised housing projects, described the move as an "extremely limited alternative" aimed also at drawing attention to homelessness. "These people at the bottom of the societal ladder are slowly becoming a forgotten group," said association Director Gerard Theunissen. "Nobody notices them anymore." The association will pick up the \$8 cost of each weather-resistant, mini-shelter. Police spokesman Ger De Jong called the project "socially correct" and said police will not bother the box dwellers as long as they do not become a public nuisance.

Hungry lion found in basement of home

DETROIT (AFP) — Roaring coming from the basement of a vacant house was shrugged off by neighbours as the sounds of dogs, but police officers called to investigate found a young, hungry lion. The officers found the lion and a staffer from a nearby wildlife shelter tranquillised the eight-month-old, malnourished 68-kilo (150-pound) lion to the shelter. The male lion is expected to be placed in a zoo. Authorities were investigating whether the home's previous tenants left the animal or whether it appeared after the house had been vacated.

Who killed Princess Michael's cats?

LONDON (AP) — Never mind about Charles and Diana. Forget Fergie. The big royal story in Britain, as measured by the tabloid press, is who killed the cat? Princess Michael, glamorous wife of a cousin of the queen, is said to be distraught over the death of not one but two pampered pets. A marauding squirrel is the key suspect in the first death. A fox has been offered as the slightly more plausible culprit in the second case. This seemingly frivolous story has captured the attention of the British media, including some serious newspapers, for nearly two weeks. It contains elements of everything the British public likes best: Animals, the royal family, and a good whodunit.

\$1.2 million stolen in Japan carjacking

TOKYO (AP) — Only a week after \$1.6 million was stolen from a bank truck, three men attacked a station wagon in central Japan and escaped with a bag containing \$1.2 million, police said. The Aichi Prefectural Police Department said the three men, driving in two cars, chased the station wagon, driven by two employees of a company that sells Pachinko game prizes, and forced it to stop. One of the assailants smashed the windshield of the station wagon with an iron pipe and forced the two victims out, police said, adding that no one was injured in the attack. The robbers drove away in the station wagon and one of their cars, carrying the money. The station wagon and the two other cars were later found in separate locations.



Actress Mia Farrow (right) leaves the courthouse Tuesday at the close of the seven-week custody battle between her and former lover filmmaker Woody Allen

Allen. Ms. Alter cited their report that Allen had an "overly intense, inappropriate relationship with Dylan, with sexual overtones."

She called Allen "amoral," a "man who knows no boundaries."

The naked photographs he had of Previn showed "a contempt for Soon-Yi and a contempt for